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THE TIMES

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Major and Cheney clash over Bosnia 'deadline'

■ The Security Council must now resolve Western differences on the deadline for enforcing the "no fly" zone in Bosnia. Britain and the US have agreed on the need for such a move

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND MARTIN FLETCHER

JOHN Major and President Bush announced yesterday that Britain and America would work together on a United Nations resolution enforcing the "no-fly zone" in Bosnia.

However, Western policy on enforcing the "no-fly zone" over Bosnia was thrown into confusion after Mr Major and Dick Cheney, the United States defence secretary, contradicted each other about setting Serbia a 15-day deadline to cease all flights.

After a weekend summit at Camp David, the prime minister told reporters on the White House lawn that he had had no discussions about a 15-day deadline. With President Bush standing beside him, Mr Major said: "I saw those stories in the press about a 15-day deadline. Certainly that was nothing we discussed this morning, nothing we discussed over the weekend." Those reports had "no credibility at the moment".

Almost simultaneously Mr Cheney, who was at Camp David on Saturday, was giving a television interview to a conflicting version of the talks. He said: "What was being looked at would be a 15-day period of time, a final warning if you will, to the Bosnian Serbs that they have to stop flying those aircraft and must, in fact, comply with the resolution, and after that period of time action will be taken to enforce the 'no-fly zone'."

The contradiction in the positions of the two main Nato partners reflected their profoundly different approaches to cutting Serbian aggression. It burst into the open despite efforts by Mr Major, Mr Bush and British officials to suggest they had settled their differences over the terms for enforcement of the "no-fly zone". The leaders warned Serbia that it risked isolation for years to come.

Mr Major said that the safety of British troops guarding United Nations relief missions was of paramount importance. His insistence that the 15-day deadline had not even been raised stemmed from his fear that such an overly hostile move would enrage the Serbs and provoke bloody retaliation against the 2,700 British soldiers in Bosnia. The Serbs have already

threatened British troops publicly. British officials would not even use the word "deadline", preferring the less provocative "pause".

Although President Bush went out of his way yesterday to acknowledge those anxieties and pay tribute to the peacekeepers, the administration, spurred on by Bill Clinton, the incoming president who wants to "turn up the heat" on the Serbs, is determined to get tough. The Americans fear that if the Serbs are allowed to go on violating the air-exclusion zone with impunity, they will be emboldened to spread the war to Kosovo and Macedonia, triggering war throughout the Balkans.

Despite their conflicting views on the mechanics of enforcing "the no-fly zone", the prime minister and the president did agree on the need for a resolution. The main options, Mr Cheney indicated, were constant air patrols over Bosnia or destroying on the ground any aircraft that had violated the zone.

A resolution setting Serbia a deadline — the timing of which is still in dispute — for ceasing flights over Bosnia is to be rushed through the security council in a few days, perhaps even before Christmas. Lawrence Eagleburger, the Secretary of State, predicted a vote within "a week or so at the longest". The resolution will carry an implicit threat of military action by the West to stop the Bosnian Serbs transporting troops and equipment by helicopter and light aircraft.

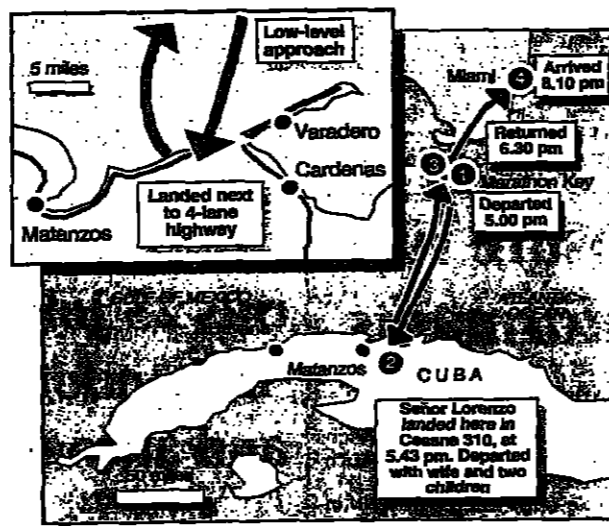
Mr Major's anxiety about the lightly armed 2,700 British troops in the vanguard of the UN humanitarian operation in the war-ravaged former Yugoslav republic prompted President Bush to offer public reassurance about America's intentions, including the pledge that British lives were as important to him as American ones.

Air ban, page 7
Peter Riddell, page 12

CUBAN EXILE RETURNS ON A FLYING VISIT



Together again: Orestes Lorenzo Peres arrives back at an airport near Miami with his wife and two children



Pilot outwits Havana to pick up his family

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

A FORMER Cuban air force major who defected to the United States in a stolen MIG-23 fighter plane last year, flew back to the island at the weekend, landed on a busy road and rescued his wife and two sons.

The Cuban authorities had refused the pleas of Orestes Lorenzo Peres for his family to be allowed to join him. On Saturday, flying a borrowed

Cessna, Señor Lorenzo evaded Cuba's air defences by flying low over the Straits of Florida. He brought the plane down on the two-lane road running between Havana and the Varadero peninsula. "I landed in front of a car and they all had to stop," he said. His family jumped in and he took off for Florida.

Family call, page 8

Fate of Balkans held by Yugoslav voters

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

SERBS and Montenegrins went to the polls yesterday in historic elections certain to determine the fate of the Balkans. Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic was facing a tough challenge from Serbian-American businessman Milan Panic for the presidency but straw polls in several areas indicated that support for Mr Milosevic was holding up well.

The international community has made it clear that if Mr Milosevic is re-elected then sanctions on rump Yugoslavia are certain to be tightened. But, rising to the challenge, Mr Milosevic has presented the race as a struggle for Serbian unity and independence as opposed to foreign subordination in the case of victory by Mr Panic and the opposition.

Last night opposition parties were claiming widespread fraud and the leader of one of the largest parties warned that people would take to the streets to protest if they thought the election had been rigged.

Mr Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister, has promised voters that only he and the opposition will be able to end

Serbia's international isolation. However no party advocates the total cutting of support for Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia. In the event of an opposition victory disillusion may soon set in.

Eve-of-election polls showed Mr Panic and Mr Milosevic running neck and neck. Hardline nationalists led by Vojislav Seselj were also expected to do well although last night Mr Seselj was reported to be undergoing surgery after suffering a stroke.

Serbs were also voting for a new parliament and for the Yugoslav assembly. All observers were keenly awaiting the results of Montenegro's elections as they are a crucial test of the pro-independence movement there.

Whatever the result of yesterday's elections they will leave Serbia and Montenegro deeply and, many now predict, dangerously polarised. Many voters said yesterday that they feared civil war and many young opposition supporters said that victory by Mr Milosevic would spur them to emigrate.

Corruption claims, page 7

Sunday opening brings late Christmas cheer for shops

By NICHOLAS WATT

STORES throughout Britain were crammed with shoppers yesterday as businesses floated Sunday trading laws to make the most of the last weekend before Christmas. Sales increased by as much as 20 per cent on last year.

After the busiest shopping day of the year was spoiled for the West End of London by a bomb threat on Saturday, shoppers returned in their thousands yesterday. Hamleys in Regent Street reported one of its busiest days yesterday after opening 20 minutes early to cope with the queues outside. David Pearson, the retail manager, said: "We have been heaving with people. We suffered on Saturday, but people have been queuing back."

The Conran Shop, in Fulham Road, west London, took more money in six hours trading yesterday than during a normal ten-hour weekday. Geoff Marshall, the manager director of Conran Shops, said: "We have had to bring in extra staff, extra tills, extra goods and extra everything. We were very busy all day and just coped."

Business was marginally better than last year and

yesterday's shopping was the tail end of the Christmas peak. "Customers have been hugely enthusiastic about our Sunday opening," he said.

Some stores said they hoped the increase in Christmas shopping heralded the first signs of the recession ending. Michael Cole, the director of public affairs at House of Fraser Holdings, owners of Harrods, said: "This has been a good Christmas and better than last year. Our turnover has been up by 14 to 15 per cent on last year which was truly horrible. There is money around and people want to buy the feel-good things."

At the Lakeside shopping centre in Thurrock, Essex, more than 50,000 shoppers packed out the new malls yesterday. Heather Davis, the marketing manager, said: "We have done exceptionally well. Business is up 20 per cent on last year. Over Christmas the average adult spends £120 at Lakeside which is double the normal taking."

Brian Rogers, shopping at Lakeside with his wife and two children, said the law should be changed to allow Sunday trading. "This is only one of

two days when busy people can shop. I don't think Sunday shopping will harm family life because we are making a day of it."

Despite the claims of increased sales, shoppers at Lakeside said they were tightening their belts. Peter Doherty, the manager of the centre's House of Fraser store, said shoppers wanted to spend less and buy more valuable goods.

In central London, retailers said they were having to reduce prices to increase sales. Martin Barnett, of the Marble Arch Association, said: "We are taking 30 per cent less money but are selling 40 per cent more goods."

Alastair Barron, of the Keep Sunday Special campaign, said: "We would encourage local councils to consider prosecution on the basis of today." The campaign supports a private member's bill from Ray Powell, a Labour MP, due for its second reading on January 22, which says goods should be sold which facilitate rest and recreation, treatment of emergencies, social gatherings and travel.

Buying romance, page 4

Defiant Rabin warns Beirut over turning back deportees

FROM BEN LYNNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

AS ISRAEL'S supreme court met to consider an appeal by deported Palestinian Muslim fundamentalists, Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet yesterday dug in against worldwide condemnation of its mass expulsions.

The Israeli strike against the Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement threatened to backfire amid images of the deportees shivering in Lebanese no man's land. The deportees, many of them Palestinian intellectuals and professional people, formed committees at the weekend to run what is rapidly becoming the Middle East's latest makeshift refugee camp in Marj al-Zahour, the no man's land between Israel and Lebanon.

The court is expected to deliver its verdict today. Last night Mr Rabin warned the Lebanese government not to try to send the Palestinians back, saying this would be a mistake. "We had to cut off Hamas' ability to harm the citizens of the state of Israel and the Palestinians who support the peace process," Yosef Harish, the industry minister, said after the cabinet reaffirmed the expulsion of 415 suspected members of the Hamas movement and the Islamic Jihad organisation. "The fact remains that Hamas has been weakened and that the factions supporting the negotiations have been strengthened."

Mr Rabin signalled that he had few misgivings about the expulsions by telling left-wing members of the cabinet he would meet leaders of the hardline Tsomet opposition party today. These contacts may portend a further drift to the right in what started

last June as a left-centre coalition. There were also signs that a near consensus about the expulsions was beginning to erode, as newspapers raised questions about the haste in which the government tried to bus the deportees across the border and the secrecy that surrounded the operation and its impact on Israel's image.

A no man's land with hundreds of Palestinians Israel has expelled means yet another hump we will have to bear on our back," the

Officials from Hamas and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — fierce rivals for Palestinian loyalties — are to meet in Tunis this week to discuss co-ordinated anti-Israel action. They are expected to issue a call for a violent response from people in the occupied territories... Page 8

respected Ha'aretz daily wrote.

The court began hearing two petitions aimed at bringing back the deportees, and soldiers lightly wounded two youths yesterday during a clash in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis. The renewed violence came a day after six Palestinians were killed in Khan Yunis refugee camp, adjoining the town, in some of the fiercest clashes since the start of the five-year-old Palestinian uprising. One of the dead was a Amal Abu Tyur, nine. Bethlehem, Hebron and Ramallah remained sealed off.

PLO-Hamas link, page 8



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Gummer hails increase in North Sea haddock catches but crews warn that the battle goes on

Britain wins new EC deal for fishermen

FROM MICHAEL HORNSBY IN BRUSSELS

BRITISH fishermen have been granted a big increase in the amount of haddock they will be allowed to take from the North Sea next year. But their catches of some other species will be cut or held at current low volumes and new conservation measures could reduce their fishing further in future years.

In more than 17 hours of negotiations which ended early yesterday, British fisheries ministers were able to persuade Brussels to drop a plan to compel 800 English and Scottish vessels to stay in port for 190 days every year to prevent over-fishing of cod and haddock.

Manuel Marin, the Fisheries Commissioner, accepted that new legislation in Britain, the Sea Fish (Conservation) Bill, should achieve the same conservation aim. The bill, which received royal assent last week, empowers the government to attach a condition to fishing licences specifying the number of days a vessel may spend at sea.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister who chaired the meeting, described the outcome as "remarkable". Fishermen were "natural hunters" and getting them to accept restraint was never easy.

There is no hope for the future of fishing if we do not ensure that we do not overfish," he said. "When stocks recover people will see why we had to take these measures".

Senior Marin said the Euro-

An EC deal on haddock has not not satisfied many UK trawlermen. They are threatening to take direct action

pean Commission and member states agreed at last in Brussels to "operate on the same wave length".

In a further move, EC ministers approved an extension of the Common Fisheries Policy for a further ten years. David Curry, junior fisheries minister, said this meant that Britain, as the biggest contributor to the EC's fishing grounds, would continue to be guaranteed "the lion's share" of the available catch. Fishing by other EC vessels within 12 miles of the British coast would remain limited to boats from countries with historic fishing rights there.

Fears that the Spanish fleet, the biggest in the EC and one which has traditionally fished mainly outside Community waters, would soon be able to invade British grounds in large numbers, reducing Britain's catch share, appear to have been dispelled.

"The Spanish have been seen off at least until 2003," Mr Curry said. Spain, which joined the EC in the mid-1980s, was the only country to vote against this part of the deal. Mr Curry said the problem of Spanish boats registering in Britain and using a British flag could be controlled

by tougher licensing rules. British legislation has worried fishermen because it gives the government a free hand to limit fishing to any level at any time. The penalty for breaching a fishing licence condition will be raised to a maximum of £50,000. Skippers will be able to appeal to a tribunal over their allocation of days at sea.

Britain's share of the haddock catch will rise by 82 per cent in the North Sea, from 42,640 to 77,620 tonnes and by 42 per cent, from 9,985 to 14,180 tonnes west of Scotland. This reflects scientific evidence of a recovery in haddock stocks over the past year.

Our share of the cod catch will stay at 43,220 tonnes in the North Sea, the same as this year, but will rise by 4.3 per cent west of Scotland and by 7 per cent in the Irish Sea. The British whiting quota will go up by 16 per cent west of Scotland but fall by 15 per cent in the Irish Sea.

The EC ministers failed to produce any answers to long-standing criticisms of the Common Fisheries Policy. These include the high proportion of fish that have to be thrown back dead into the sea because quotas have been exhausted or because the fish are below the minimum landing size, and the large tonnage of fish — about half the entire North Sea catch — that is taken for processing into industrial oils and animal feed, mainly by Danish vessels. Conservationists say this is seriously depleting the supply of food for fish that are caught for eating.



Gone fishing: vessels will be able to catch more haddock under the agreement

Fishermen to step up fight over EC rules

BY RAY CLANCY

SCOTTISH fishermen warned yesterday that they will step up their militant action over fishing restrictions despite claims by the government that a good deal had been reached in Brussels over European quotas.

In Peterhead this week almost 400 trawlers are tied up, unable to fish while their French and Spanish counterparts trawl the seas for cod and haddock. The boats remain in harbour because strict British quotas for white fish have been reached.

"For the past two years the government has forced us to break the rules, to become criminals. While we welcome an increase in the haddock quota, and the limit on tie-ups is a move in the right direction, we have won only a battle, not the war. What concerns us is the Sea Fish (Conservation) Bill, that could put our livelihood in jeopardy," said Peter Bruce, skipper of the *Budding Rose*. The bill, which gained royal assent last week, enables the government to ban fishing in order to conserve stocks, and is regarded by fishermen as being a bigger threat and more restrictive than the EC rules.

George Foreman has been fishing for 50 years and said he had never known so much animosity. "Many lads feel they are being treated badly. We are heading for the end of an era, to the end of the industry as we know it today. There is quite simply no future in it for young men. A youngster today has no hope of

finding the money to buy a boat, if he inherits a business he is hauled down by rules and regulations and then has to watch as the Spanish and French go sailing merrily by. Yet the government calls it a common fisheries policy," he said.

Along with his sons John and Michael, he owns two boats bought three years ago for almost £1 million each. He is not sure if 1993 will be an economically viable year. "We have to do our sums, work out if it is worth putting to sea," said Mr Foreman.

At a meeting of skippers in Peterhead yesterday, new action was discussed.

Skippers emerged from the meeting determined to take further action. They said that the deal in Brussels was an indication that ministers were paying attention to their views and the marches and demonstrations had resulted in their plight being listened to. "The battle is not over, it has only just started. We shall continue to fight so that no boats have to tie up next year. The fishermen are not going to lie down just because there has been some good news from Brussels," said Mr Bruce.

Already they have blocked the harbour at Lochinver, marched through the streets of Edinburgh during the summer and waved defiant banners at the royal yacht Britannia as she came into the port of Leith. Further action being discussed includes not filling in log books, avoiding fishery vessels and playing cat and mouse games with officials.

Heseltine may back down on bomb cover

BY RICHARD FORD AND DEREK HARRIS

TAXPAYERS will help meet the costs of insuring commercial property against terrorist attacks under a deal being considered by the trade and industry department.

A solution to the crisis caused by the Association of British Insurers saying that terrorist damage would be excluded from new commercial policies is expected in the next few days.

Ministers have come under pressure from the City and business leaders to share the spiralling financial burden of IRA attacks on commercial targets in mainland Britain.

The association and leading figures in the City expect ministers to unveil a government-backed scheme before Christmas because many existing insurance policies expire on January 1, Bernard Harty, financial director of the Corpo-

ration of the City of London, said last night. "It is important that something is announced in the next few days."

Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, has held a series of meetings with insurance companies in an attempt to resolve the row. Although the government has been adamant that the insurance companies must bear the brunt of the risks, Mr Heseltine has not ruled out some government assistance.

One scheme under consideration in Whitehall is a levy of 5-10 per cent on industrial property insurance that would be pooled to provide cover for terrorist damage, with any extra cost underwritten by the government. If the special fund ran out, the government would step in to meet additional claims from the public purse.

Major forges links with Clinton after bidding Bush farewell at Camp David

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND NICHOLAS WOOD IN WASHINGTON

JOHN Major flew back to London last night having said goodbye to his old friend and ally President Bush and successfully forged links to the incoming Clinton administration.

He followed up a 30-minute telephone call to Bill Clinton on Friday with a lunch at the British embassy yesterday for Al Gore, the vice president-elect, Les Aspin, who is this week expected to be appointed defence secretary, and others likely to play key roles over the next four years.

The prime minister's efforts appeared designed to dispel any lingering friction generated by Conservative party help for President Bush during the election campaign, including the recent disclosure that the Home Office had searched its files for information on Mr Clinton.

Returning from a weekend with Mr Major at Camp David, Mr Bush told reporters at the White House: "I feel as strongly as I ever have about the strength of the UK-US relationship. It is vital to our own interests and I know the



Gore had lunch with the prime minister

prime minister feels that way." He praised Mr Major, saying it had been "a very wonderful visit with a distinguished world leader" and that "the talks could not have gone better".

Lawrence Eagleburger, Mr Bush's Secretary of State, also attended yesterday's lunch, alongside Mr Clinton's senior advisers. During his "easy and friendly" conversation with Mr Clinton, Mr Major discussed the war in the former Yugoslavia and the state of the world economy. He was comforted to hear the president-elect shared his concerns about the impact on British troops carrying out humanitarian work in Bosnia of enforcing the no-fly zone.

Also at yesterday's lunch was Dave McCurdy, the House intelligence committee chairman and close adviser to

Mr Clinton on national security issues, and Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, who continues in his post despite the change of president.

Mr Aspin will preside of the post-Cold War retrenchment of the American military and will have a large influence on a number of issues affecting Britain, including the level of US troops to be left in Europe, the future ability of Britain to test its nuclear weapons in the US, and whether Britain's independent nuclear deterrent should be included in any future strategic arms reduction talks.

Mr Greenspan would have been able to brief the Prime Minister on America's future economic prospects, which bear directly on Britain's hopes of pulling out of the recession in the new year.

Police fear court disclosure rule will rob them of key informants

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables have warned the Home Office that prosecutions against key criminals could be abandoned if detectives have to name confidential sources of information to meet growing legal demands for disclosure of material.

Many big investigations into drug trafficking, armed robberies, terrorism and underworld gangs depend on information from criminals or those close to the underworld. Police fear that defences will try to extract the identities of informants, putting informants at risk.

A letter drawn up by the

Association of Chief Police Officers setting out widespread police fears about the demands by defences for total disclosure of material is being studied within the Home Office. The letter also warns the Home Office that the bureaucracy and work involved in drawing material together could be costly in terms of funding and manpower.

In one recent London multi-million-pound drug trafficking case Scotland Yard disclosed for the first time that detectives had bugged the offices of a suspect. The police have always maintained total silence on their technical capa-

bilities for fear that the underworld would try to avoid such surveillance.

Several other cases in London and the provinces have been abandoned in the past year because judges ordered the disclosure of the identity of informants or police officers working under cover. Police fear that recent cases of miscarriages of justice involving the non-disclosure of material will make the courts even more anxious to meet defence demands.

The concern has now spread beyond the police to MI5, where officers are reported to be worried that their new role in intelligence work on terrorism could mean they will face court appearances. The Security Service might also be forced to reveal its methods and informants.

The cost of disclosure is already causing headaches for some forces, especially in extensive fraud cases. One Metseyside investigation has had to make a million pages of material available to defence lawyers.

The letter from the chief constables follows a national police conference last month, where detectives from every force listed their difficulties with disclosure and the Crown Prosecution Service. As a result new guidelines are to be sent out before the new year by the CPS.

The CPS has agreed that prosecution lawyers will not automatically hand over material to the defence without consulting the police. If there are claims that material is too sensitive to be disclosed and the CPS, the police and the defence disagree, the matter will be put before a judge.

Sotheby's cuts 25 jobs in London and abroad

BY JOHN SHAW

ABOUT 25 staff at Sotheby's, the world's biggest auction house, are to be made redundant between now and the middle of January.

The move affects employees in London and on the Continent and follows 60 redundancies announced by Christie's International. Art market speculation has suggested for some time that up to 150 staff would go at Sotheby's in the light of a sluggish art market but the figure was firmly discounted yesterday.

A spokeswoman said: "We are making a small number of redundancies as part of a carefully organised process of seeing how and where we can do things better. We are not making any formal announcement; it is part of a process of adjustment in the European operation."

A life-sized bronze sculpture of Joan of Arc valued at £100,000 has been stolen from the gardens of Cliveden House, the former home of Lord and Lady Astor at Taplow, Buckinghamshire. The mansion is run by the National Trust.

The sculpture dates from 1850 and weighs a quarter of a ton. It is the latest in a series of garden statuary thefts feeding a profitable market here and on the Continent. Earlier this month a carved stone angel weighing about a hundredweight was stolen from the grounds of a private chapel near York and a 3ft high pair of stone eagles disappeared from a garden in Cumbria.

200 flee blaze at Edinburgh hotel

One of Edinburgh's biggest hotels was badly damaged by fire yesterday. The Scandic Crown was evacuated of almost 200 guests as firemen fought to prevent the blaze spreading from the upper part of the seven-storey building. A large part of the roof was wrecked and the upper two floors were severely burnt.

A policeman spotted the fire at 5.15am. It is thought to have started in a boiler room. Although there were early fears that one man was missing, police later said all had been safely accounted for. All the guests were taken to another hotel. The Scandic Crown, which housed the Danish delegation to this month's European Community summit, is in the Royal Mile. It was built two years ago to a design created to blend in with historic buildings in the street.

Male cancer risk grows

More British men are getting testicular cancer, a disease which can prove fatal. Since 1972 the risk has nearly doubled, the Imperial Cancer Research fund claims. Its scientists are investigating a link between a rise in the number of men with undescended testes and cancer. The charity has launched a fact sheet which explains methods of self-examination. About 1,000 cases occur each year with 150 proving fatal. New drugs have greatly improved survival rates.

Tree breaks plane's fall

The crew of a microlight was rescued from a 75ft Scots pine which cushioned its fall near York yesterday when its engine failed after take-off. John Watkins, 53, from Manchester, was trapped in the cockpit with serious leg injuries for an hour until firemen cut him free. His co-pilot, Steve Grzybowski, 43, of Tadcaster, escaped serious injury.

No 10 'losing its allure'

The government's recent problems have tempered the ambitions of at least one cabinet member. Michael Portillo, right, the Treasury chief secretary and often mentioned as a successor to John Major, told LWT: "I think over the last six months, the difficulties that our prime minister has been through have made me realise what a terribly demanding and, in many ways, unrewarding job it is."



Soldiers die in crash

Two women soldiers were killed on the M4 as they drove from Germany to visit their families for a Christmas surprise. Debbie Hunter, 26, and Cindy Kibble, 27, were in the front seats of the car, which went out of control in sleet near Bray, Berkshire, on Saturday night. A fellow soldier, Mark Hayden, 26, suffered severe chest and leg injuries.

Bronze Age recreated

A replica Bronze Age settlement is to be built on a remote moorland farm, overlooking the remains of original 3,500-year-old dwellings. Work on recreating the ancient homes at Treworth Farm, 1,000 feet up on Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, will start in the new year. The 200-acre beef and sheep farm up to 1,000 schoolchildren a year. Farmer Graham Lawrence, 44, hopes that youngsters will be involved in later stages of the development.

Lockerbie petition

On the fourth anniversary of the Lockerbie air crash today, six people who lost relatives will hand a petition to John Major at 10 Downing Street demanding a public enquiry. In New York, a march and vigil will be followed by a memorial service to the 270 people who died when a terrorist bomb brought down the PanAm aircraft.



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Minister views ways to claw back cash in big mortgage rescues

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is considering changing the rules that allow benefit offices to meet big mortgage payments for the unemployed after it emerged that the state is paying £1,800 a week to cover the housing costs of a businessman.

Social security ministers are looking at proposals whereby those who receive big weekly payments to cover mortgages would have to pay back the money once they had sold their homes.

It was disclosed this weekend that the social security department is paying the £1,800 a week mortgage for Trevor Deaves, who lost his £400,000-a-year job as chairman of the M1 insurance group two years ago.

Yesterday, Alistair Burt, social security minister, refused to comment on the Deaves case, but said that he would be examining ways to ensure that the taxpayer did not lose out where high payments were made.

While no detailed proposal is on the table, Mr Burt, favoured some type of repayment for those on higher-than-average mortgages. However he pointed out that many houses that could not be sold were repossessed. In this case, there would be no equity and it might be unfair to chase the debt. "It is fraught with difficulty," he said. "If the house is repossessed do you then demand the debt or write it off?"

The Labour MP Frank Field, chairman of the Commons social security committee,

has been pressing for a repayment policy for over two years. Yesterday, he said that the ministry should be guided by the average payments given to bail out those who could no longer afford their mortgages. Anyone receiving more than this sum should have to return all or a proportion of the sum they received, after selling their house.

Mr Field said: "At a time of recession, nobody wants to see people who are unemployed and homeless. But the taxpayer should be able to recoup a large part of the payments once the house is sold. Taxpayers are supporting huge capital assets and they should get some recompense."

Mr Burt said that there are already rules on mortgage payments. They are not given to those with savings above £8,000 and a sliding scale is imposed on those with savings of £3,000 to £8,000.

People with very big mortgages receive full interest only if the social security adjudication officer decides that they could afford the mortgage when they took it on. "Nobody is going to foot the payment if I buy Highgrove and then lose my job the next day," Mr Burt said.

Full interest is met for up to a year if the claimant is making efforts to sell the property. After this period, benefits would be lowered to a level comparable to a reasonable standard of accommodation. If the claimant was unable to sell his house, it would be repossessed.

"If the mortgage payment is

inappropriate, as would certainly be the case if someone was paying over £1,500 a week, then there must be a let out for the taxpayer," Mr Burt said.

If people's accommodation is thought appropriate for their circumstances, mortgage payments would go on indefinitely.

Trevor Deaves is not alone in having help from the social security department in paying the mortgage. There are several other cases where formerly rich businessmen have had help with repayments.

Peter Julien, an unemployed interior designer, bought his home in Hampstead, north London, in 1989 and made two payments on the £630,000 mortgage before his business failed. He asked for state help to meet repayments of £1,784 a week and was given social security benefits totalling £32,000 over six months. The home was repossessed and sold by the Town and Country Building Society.

The DSS paid the £600-a-week mortgage interest on a businessman's four-bedroom home at Darwen, Lancashire, when his finance and mobile communications firm faced difficulties.

A money market trader and broker remortgaged his mansion in Islington, north London, a week after losing his job in 1989. Interest payments on the £138,750 loan, which came to almost £420 a week in 1990, were paid by the social security department.



Reflections of Christmas cheer: Jonathan Rees, a tuba player, taking part in the annual Tuba and Euphonium carol concert in London yesterday. The concert moved to a new venue at Spitalfields in the East End this year after 12 years at Covent Garden. About 40 brass players volunteered their services for the concert

Heads to boycott tests at age of 11

By JOHN O'LEARY

THE government's beleaguered testing programme for the national curriculum faces another boycott threat today, this time from head teachers of 11-year-olds.

Next year's first full round of tests at the age of 14 are already the subject of possible disruption by members of the National Union of Teachers. Now the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) is advising its members not to take part in pilot tests for the younger age group.

The association, which represents most heads in the primary schools where assessment at 11 will take place, claims that the government has refused to enter into dialogue on vital aspects of the curriculum. It regards the new tests as unreliable and unnecessarily time-consuming.

Both the heads and the Labour party are asking John Patten, the education secretary, to adopt the Scottish system of allowing teachers to decide when pupils are ready to be tested. Pilot tests for 11-year-olds are planned for 2 per cent of schools in England which cover the age group.

Testing at 11 will be compulsory from 1994, but participation in the pilots is voluntary. Baroness Blatch, the education minister, said: "The NAHT advice is pure hypocrisy. They tell us they want the tests to be thoroughly tried out in schools, but they tell their members not to co-operate with trials."

"One of the main reasons for running pilot tests is to enable teachers to influence the development of tests so that they are as manageable and effective as possible."

David Hart, general secretary of the NAHT, said: "The profession needs to demonstrate that its concerns must no longer be ignored. A flawed system of assessment should not be imposed on children or divert valuable resources away from teaching."

Masked rapist attacks newspaper girl aged 14

By HAMISH PATERSON

A GIRL aged 14 was beaten and raped by a masked man who seized her in an alleyway as she delivered newspapers near her home in a co. Durham village.

The girl had just delivered her last newspapers in the village when the man grabbed her from behind, dragged her into a garden and savagely beat her.

She was in hospital last night with severe bruising. Police said she was so traumatised by her ordeal that she could remember very little about the attack, which happened in daylight.

Police have set up an incident room in the village, between Durham and Consett. The rapist, who covered his face with a ski mask, attacked the girl shortly after 8am on Saturday.

Detective Chief Inspector John Graham said yesterday: "It's terrible that this girl should have her life ruined in this way and it's imperative we should catch this man very quickly."

The girl was halfway down an alley when she heard footsteps behind her. She thought it was a jogger and moved to one side but was instantly attacked. She managed to pick herself up and stagger to a nearby house for help.

Both of her eyes were closed, her lip was cut and swollen and her nose was bruised. Police were at first unable to establish that she had been raped.

Mr Graham said it was not clear whether she had been knocked unconscious or whether she could not remember what happened because of shock. A specially trained policeman is at the girl's bedside in hospital to try to find out more details of the attack. All that the victim could remember was that the masked man was taller than her 5ft 5in.

Police have appealed for anyone in the area between 7.30am and 8.30am on Saturday to come forward. They particularly want to hear from the driver of a blue van, bigger than a Transit, and from a young boy in a black and green striped track suit. Both were seen in the area.

Police believe that the rapist is probably a local man because he seemed to know a number of alleyways in the area, including the one in which he attacked the girl, just yards from her home.

Libel case couple ask EC for aid

TWO people being sued by the fast-food chain McDonald's are making their plea for legal aid to the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Helen Sied and David Morris, from London, whose case is before the High Court, are accused of libelling McDonald's in a leaflet. They claim that they cannot properly defend themselves without legal aid, which is denied by the government in libel cases.

They say the denial breaches the right to a fair trial in the European Convention on Human Rights. Their application to the commission, which rules whether the case can go to the European Court at Strasbourg, also says inability to defend themselves against a world-wide corporation makes freedom of expression impossible.



Finance house: Trevor Deaves outside his home, costing the state £1,800 a week

Executive's naked body found on waste land

By A STAFF REPORTER

DETECTIVES are trying to piece together the final hours of a London businessman found naked and stabbed to death on waste ground after what they describe as a "savage attack".

Peter Wickens, 32, the director of a retail games company, was last seen alive on Thursday night at an awards dinner for the industry at the Portman Hotel, in the West End.

The following afternoon, his body, naked except for his socks, was found on land close to a bus depot in Shepherd's Bush, west London. He had been stabbed in the chest four or five times.

Police believe that Mr Wickens was murdered elsewhere and his body dumped. Det Supt Brian Edwards, who is leading the murder enquiry, said yesterday: "It was a savage attack. We can find absolutely no motive whatsoever, although it is very, very early days."

Mr Wickens, a single man, lived alone in King's Road, Chelsea. He was the company director of Game Ltd. Det Supt Edwards said Mr Wickens had met friends before leaving for the awards dinner. "It was a formal dinner and he left late in the evening wearing dinner dress."

A police spokesman said: "It is believed he was killed in the early hours of the morning and his body taken to near the depot. Police are anxious to know what happened to the victim's clothing."

A colleague at Game Ltd said: "Everybody is very deeply shocked by what has happened."

DSS offered to pay £2,000 weekly benefit

By ADAM FRESCO

SURROUNDED by the 66 acres of Surrey countryside that he can still call his own, Trevor Deaves was yesterday unrepentant that the social security department is meeting weekly interest payments of almost £2,000 to keep him there.

Mr Deaves, 39, now at the centre of growing political furore over social security benefits, said: "I have paid a lot of tax in the past and am simply claiming what I am entitled to."

Since losing his reputed £400,000-a-year job as an insurance sales executive, the department has been meeting his mortgage interest repayments of £1,833 a week since July.

The former millionaire took out a £832,500 interest-only mortgage to buy the six-bedroom Tree Top Farm in Haslemere, Surrey, set in 66 acres, for £925,000 nearly three years ago. He signed on

for income support in July this year after leaving his £400,000 job as chief executive of the life assurance company M1 Group in January 1991.

He made his fortune selling insurance policies and was once reputedly worth £15 million and owned more than 20 cars, including Rolls-Royces and Ferraris, but has sold them all. He says two Range Rovers, parked at the top of the sweeping gravel drive, belong to his wife, Jacqui.

He said that the DSS phoned him asking why he did not claim supplementary benefit. "It turned out I was entitled to have my mortgage paid because I had been paying it myself for 30 months. When I made the mortgage claim I offered to pay it all back but they said I was entitled to it. I would still pay it all back if things work out for me, or give it away to charity."

Cold war foes swap secrets

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MEASURE of how far the Cold war has thawed can be seen from the latest deal being struck between the West and Russia. Information from the new radar station at RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire, which only replaced the famous "golf balls" last month, is to be traded for data on Russian rockets, the threat the station was built to counter.

It is all part of the new version of President Reagan's Star Wars project, a £30 billion joint Russian-US space defence plan called GPALS, Global Protection Against Limited Strikes, which is intended to counter threats

from the growing number of nuclear powers.

With the two sides no longer enemies, they are prepared to swap information in areas where they have a lead. The Soviets' rocket booster systems are regarded as far superior to those in the West, while the new £160 million Solid State Phased Array Radar on the Yorkshire moors is acknowledged as the state of the art in detecting objects in flight, even beyond the atmosphere.

Much of the Russians' missile detection capability was lost when the Soviet empire broke up and Fylingdales will help to plug a gap against new threats.

There is some irony that when the Americans, who paid 80 per cent of the cost of the new radar, first proposed updating the early warning site it was vehemently opposed by the same Russian generals who will now benefit from its data.

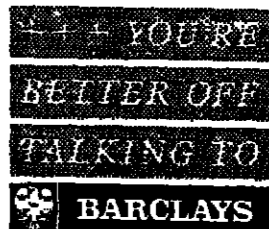
Fylingdales was built in the sixties facing east to give the famous "four-minute warning" of an incoming Soviet missile attack. The new system, housed in a three-sided pyramid, can scan 360 degrees. "The benefits for Russia are obvious," a Ministry of Defence spokesman said. "It would be a simple matter to link them into our system."

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Army rebuilds IRA target despite safety fears



Mates: soldiers will not be sitting ducks

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE army in Northern Ireland has spent around £7 million rebuilding and relocating a much-bombed checkpoint close to the Irish border. Its critics say that the soldiers posted to it will be placed in unnecessary danger and that it should have been abandoned.

Cloghogue, pronounced Clog and known to the Army as Romeo 16, is a state-of-the-art installation with an automated vehicle screening area. The checkpoint, and the adjoining base located just south of Newry, co. Down, near the border, are bristling with surveillance equipment. Its construction involved "re-designing" a hillside using earth-moving equipment to accommodate the base and make it more secure from IRA attack.

It is the most expensive base of its kind in Northern Ireland, and even the army is prepared to admit that it is now one of the IRA's key targets, and will almost certainly be bombed again.

Last week, Seamus Mallon, the SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh, and Michael Mates, the Stormont security minister, were again at loggerheads over the base. The nationalist view is that Cloghogue should be scrapped. Mr Mallon and his supporters believe the base is a military nonsense that invites IRA attack while at the same time posing a deadly threat to those who live near it and serve in it.

The official unionist view is that the army and police must have a permanent presence close to the border on the main Dublin to Belfast road for a variety of political, military, economic and psycho-

logical reasons. The debate has been given added spice by the suspicion among nationalists that many army officers secretly share their view.

Driving through the base, just three miles north of the border and a mile south of Newry, last week, Mr Mallon put that argument in its most emotive terms. "I must say if I was the father of a son who was posted here and had to man this checkpoint simply to let it be seen that things were being done and he was killed, I would be very angry indeed."

Mr Mallon believes a far better strategy would be for the army to mount random mobile patrols and checkpoints on the road, depriving the IRA of a permanent target.

The army and police first installed a checkpoint at Cloghogue in 1986 after a series of IRA

bombings and ambushes on the road immediately south of it, in an area known locally as "murder mile". Unionists would have preferred the checkpoint to have been right on the border itself, but the country there is too open and so Cloghogue, at a bend just below a hilltop overlooking Newry, was chosen instead. Its appearance at such an important location was an immediate provocation to the IRA.

There have been a number of attacks on the base since then, two of which virtually demolished it. In October 1990 a soldier died and two were injured when the IRA forced a local man to drive a bomb into the checkpoint. It was rebuilt only to be destroyed again on May 1 this year, when the provisionals transported a huge bomb on a freight wagon down the Belfast to Dublin railway, which runs along

side the base. They detonated it without warning, killing Fusilier Andrew Grundy, aged 22, from Ferryhill, co. Durham.

There have been other less dramatic attacks with mortars, the most recent on August 6, while the base was being rebuilt for the third time. Each attack has been followed by a renewed attempt by the local community to persuade the Northern Ireland Office not to rebuild.

This year's rebuild is the most concerted of all, converting Cloghogue from a mere checkpoint to a full-scale patrol base. Officially the army say it is now happy with the new design, which allows troops to operate the checkpoint away from the road, alleviates traffic congestion because of a construction of a separate slip road, and helps to reduce the destructive

potential of another bomb.

A spokesman said their soldiers are now as safe as they can be in a vulnerable location. Mr Mallon is not convinced. He points out that despite the loss of life and expense there has never been a single arms find of any significance at Cloghogue while all around it so-called unapproved roads remain free for the use of the IRA.

Mr Mates denies that troops and police posted at the base are sitting ducks. He dismisses claims that Cloghogue is more about symbolism than military strategy. "I certainly wouldn't have spent the money we spent on it as a symbol. Had anybody said we need a symbol there I would have argued very, very strongly against it. It's there because both the police and the military reckon it's operationally necessary to be there."

Airline acts after campaign by families

Britons who died in Nepal air crash to be named with DNA test

By TONY DAWE

GENETIC fingerprinting will be used to try to identify victims of the Pakistani airliner crash in Nepal three months ago, in which 35 Britons died.

Only 64 of the 167 who were killed when the Airbus A300 crashed into a hillside on the approach to Kathmandu airport have been identified, including 19 Britons.

The decision by Pakistan International Airlines and their insurers to carry out the tests follows a campaign by British relatives. Several had written to the Foreign Office and to their MPs protesting at the airline's reluctance.

Neen Lowdell, whose husband Darcy died in the crash, said: "I would welcome anything that will help get Darcy's body back home, but I cannot understand why it has taken so long to make this decision.

The weeks and weeks of waiting for any news only makes you more angry and upset."

Mrs Lowdell, of Worthing, West Sussex, spent yesterday discussing arrangements for two of her three children to provide blood and hair samples for the DNA test. The parents of Mick Hardwick and Dave Harries, two mountaineers who died, have arranged to give samples today.

"We hope that Dave's body will be identified and we can have a funeral," Muriel Harries, of Worcester, said yesterday. "We were upset when the airline at first refused to do the tests and are saddened that it has taken so much effort to get this decision."

It will be the first time that DNA testing has been used extensively on British air crash victims. The DNA testing is

available because scientists working for Kenyon Emergency Services, a London-based international undertakers, took small samples of tissue while carrying out post-mortem examinations in Kathmandu.

The samples were deep frozen and brought recently to the Home Office's forensic science laboratories at Wetherby, West Yorkshire. The DNA tests will reveal any similarities between the samples and those about to be taken from blood relatives.

"We have genuine hopes that the tests will identify more people," Philip Lewis, chief executive of Kenyon's Emergency Services, said. "We obtained samples from 110 bodies, and 72 per cent of those samples contain very good DNA."

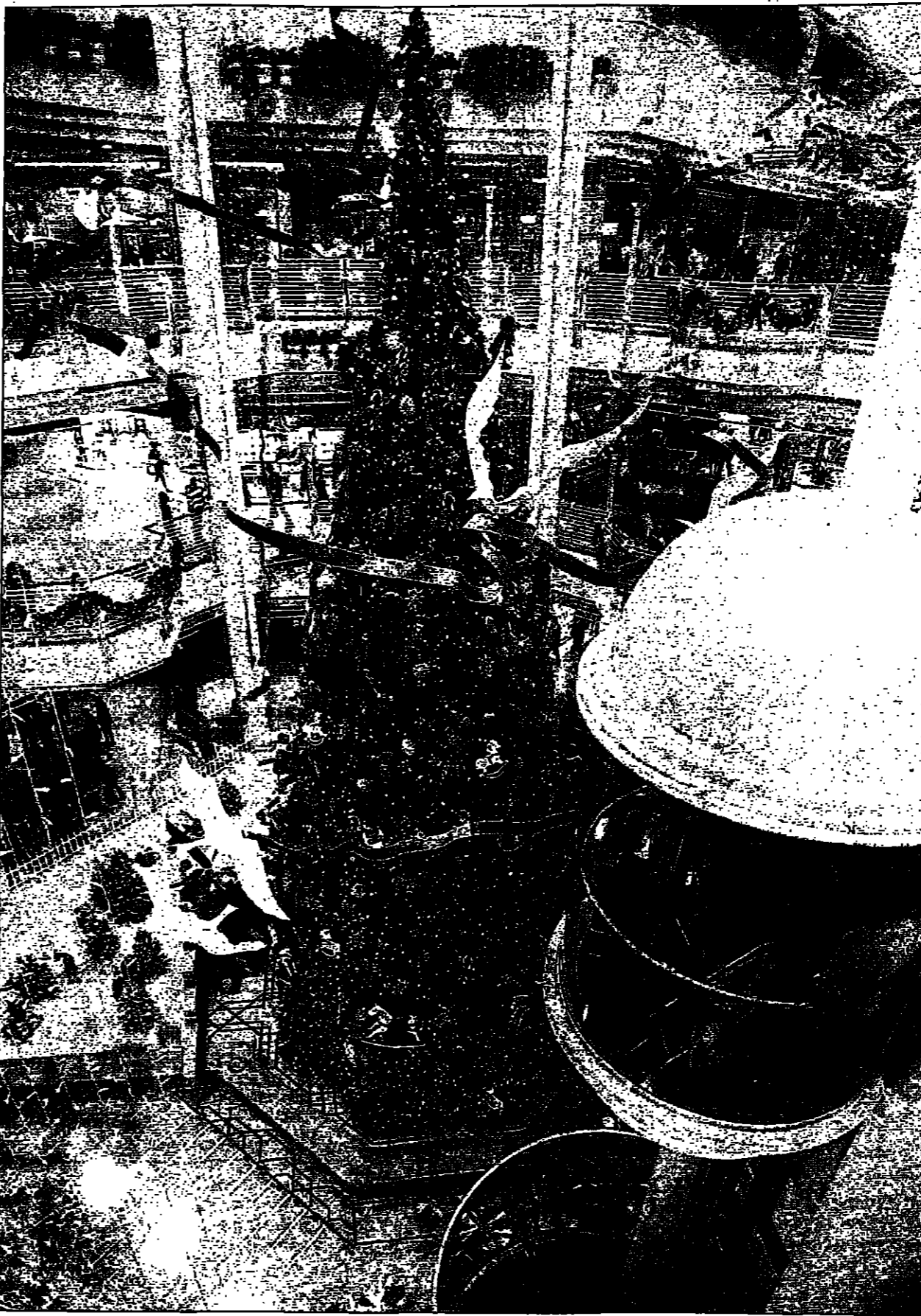
He added that the airline had always been aware of the availability of tests but had preferred to see how many of the victims could be identified by normal pathology and dental record checks. "When it became clear that we were not going to come up with any more identifications, PIA and its insurers sanctioned the DNA tests," Mr Lewis said.

In a letter to relatives, Mr Lewis said: "The process makes a comparison between the DNA profile obtained from the accident victims and that of ideally two relatives of each passenger. Should any profiles match, a relationship is considered proven."

The decision comes on the eve of the funeral of five victims who were identified: Andy and Helen Wilkins, missionaries from Hertfordshire, and their three children Hannah, 10, Naomi, 8, and Simeon, 6.



Missionaries killed in the crash: the Wilkins family



Flight of fancy: the centrepiece of Lakeside shopping centre at Grays, Essex, looms above Sunday customers

£10,185 buys romance at Christmas

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE 12 days of Christmas this year will set a true love back £10,185. The sum is back in five figures despite *The Times*'s best endeavours to keep down the cost in view of the recession.

The Times has calculated the cost of presenting all the gifts in the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* each year since 1973, when the price was only £2,818.60.

This year, we decided to cut out wasteful duplication and to use the services of an independent financial consultant, Richard Bateman, of Bateman Financial Planning, in Cornwall, who has done similar calculations for the past six years.

Mr Bateman suggested that he could fill the bill for no more than £6,246 this year, down from our £9,397.70 last year.

The bulk of Mr Bateman's savings came from his suggestion that dancers dancing pipers piping, drummers drumming and lords a-leaping could be persuaded to perform for nothing if doing it for charity or if a video were to be made of the event. He also thought it silly to pay milkmaids union rates when unemployment in farming is so bad that they would fill the role at £5 an hour.

Some of Mr Bateman's items were, however, dearer. His butcher wanted £9 for a partridge, which we got at Harrods last year for £5. His pear trees were cheap, though, at £10 against our £18.95.

Mr Bateman's turtle doves were fancy pigeons (£35 a pair), and his French hens were frozen, from a supermarket, at £5 each. For calling birds, he suggested

budgerigars at £8.50. Cows were £700 each and gold rings £25 each. Geese were £28 each from the local butcher, and swans could be hired at £30 apiece.

Yet when we did our calculations with the price list he had suggested, our total came, not to £6,246, but to £10,185. The £3,939 difference arose because he had not costed in the repetition of gifts — partridge and pear tree, for example, are given not once, but on each of the 12 days.

The moral of this exercise is that if you employ a financial adviser you should always have an in-depth interview, take nothing at its face value, and ensure that you are both talking about the same thing. Otherwise it could prove very expensive, even at Christmas.

Illicit lovers bolder at hotels

LOVERS are being "completely blatant" about their affairs, according to a new survey. Most hoteliers report that fewer couples register under pseudonyms. But, for the diminishing number of secretive romantics, the name Smith is used in three out of four occasions.

The hoteliers report that the name Major has become more common, with 6 per cent of illicit partners using it. Of 300 British hoteliers in the Signpost Hotel Guide surveyed, two-thirds said romantic liaisons were on the increase. Nearly half the 700 readers questioned said they had spent at least seven weekends at British hotels in the past year.

Isolated country hotels remain the favourite for amorous couples, with four out of five choosing a rural retreat. The Lake District the most popular destination, with a bracing weekend by the sea favoured by 16 per cent.

The most obvious clue to whether a couple is having an affair is if one does not know whether the other has tea or coffee at breakfast. Eight per cent arrive in separate cars, and one in 10 has no luggage.

A third of doomed pits may be saved

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the president of the board of trade, is expected to reprieve about a third of the 31 pits which were scheduled for closure in October. He is believed to be considering saving two of the mines which were earmarked for definite closure: Markham Main, South Yorkshire, and Bewes in South Wales.

Ministerial sources said that Mr Heseltine is due to report on the government's enquiry into the pit closure programme by mid-February. However, he is awaiting two important reports from management consultants to assess the extent of the future coal market.

While the Commons trade and industry committee believes that contracts for at least an extra 15 million tonnes can be found, saving up to 14 pits, trade and industry ministers are more cautious. They expect that the figure is nearer 10 million tonnes, which would save about ten pits.

Members of the Tory-dominated trade and industry committee, which is conducting its own enquiry into the 31 pit closures, believe that an extra 7 million tonnes of coal can be added to the British market if the power supply line from France is switched off. Committee members are also arguing for a switch from the present subsidy for nuclear power to a coal subsidy to make it more competitively

priced. Although neither option has been ruled out, ministers argue that both are fraught with legal and technical difficulties. The second option will also be expensive.

Trade and industry committee members are drawing up the committee's report to be presented before January 29, when the official consultation period on the ten pits is over. Although the cross-party committee will back the reprieve of a substantial number of pits, there is division over how this should be done. Tory members of the committee want some of the ten pits privatised but this is not accepted by Labour MPs, who are also arguing for a larger number of pits to be saved.

Mr Heseltine is expected to defend his second U-turn by arguing that the goal posts moved once it became clear that the coal market could be expanded. Some MPs claim that the political necessity of saving some of the pits may be overriding the logistical and economic case for closing them.

John Major has been told by senior members of the cabinet that the government cannot afford a repeat of the outcry in October when the scale of the pit closures became clear.

The price of reprieving even a third of the pits open will be huge. Keeping all 31 pits open would cost £600m to £700m a year.

Long break is justified, say employers

By A STAFF REPORTER

EMPLOYERS have defended their decision to shut factories for up to two weeks over the Christmas period following criticism by Tory MPs. A survey by the Institute of Directors, to be published today, shows that 64 per cent of manufacturing industry is taking nearly two weeks off.

Managers insist it is often uneconomic to reopen after Christmas only to switch off again for the new year. Some companies have been forced into longer shutdowns because of thin order books but successful firms such as Toyota in Derbyshire and Nissan at Sunderland are closing from Christmas eve until January 4 and 7.

Both the institute and the Confederation of British Industry dismiss criticism of the long break, which has been attacked by Sir Teddy Taylor, the Tory MP for Southend East. He said that either the entire period should be recognised as an official holiday or the bank holiday on January 1 should be abolished.

"Until we are prepared to go one way or the other we are just going to experience the annual embarrassment, loss of production, loss of wealth and, clearly, loss of employment."

Mr Bruce, the Tory MP for Dorset South, said: "When you try to buy goods or services you find you have to wait a long time, which would seem to be ridiculous if everybody was as lacking in orders as one would imagine."

The institute's survey found that 56 per cent of all firms will be open between December 29 and 31. More than 40 per cent of the manufacturing companies which are stopping production will have sales staff available to take orders.

Both the institute and the CBI pointed out that Britons take fewer holidays than most of their European competitors. Much of France shuts down for two weeks in August and the average Frenchman gets 30 days paid leave by law, plus 11 public holidays. In the UK, where there is no legal minimum of holidays, the average

person gets 25 to 29 days plus eight public holidays.

At least 250,000 Britons are leaving the country this Christmas to spend their holiday abroad (Robin Young writes).

The Canary Islands are the most popular destination, according to Britain's largest travel agent, Lunn Poly, and the credit card company Access. They have identified Florida, southern Spain, Kenya and Gambia as the other most popular escape routes at Christmas.

Many London and country house hotels which have arranged Christmas programmes report that they still have vacancies.

A machine replaces Britain's loneliest worker

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

THE loneliest lighthouse keeper in Britain, who has single-handedly run the Bishop Rock lighthouse off the Scilly Isles for 13 years, will return to dry land today to be replaced by a machine.

Peter Robson, whose pillar-shaped home is 23 miles from the mainland and Britain's remotest one-man posting, has been forced to leave as part of a cost-cutting programme to fully automate Britain's 38 manned lighthouses by 1997.

The Corporation of Trinity House and the Northern Lighthouse Board, which manage the 278 lighthouses in Britain, were forced by the shipping industry to replace keepers with machines, which do the same job for half the cost.

So far, no lighthouse keeper has had to be made redundant. Mr Robson will be transferred to the Needles lighthouse, off the Isle of Wight, in February. But the lighthouse authorities say that some redundancies will be inevitable as the programme nears completion.

Frank Bremner, who runs the most remote lighthouse in the British Isles but has the companionship of two assistants, is at Muckle Flugga on Unst in the Shetland Islands. He expects to be made redundant in March 1995. "There are very few lighthouses we can go to, so I will have to look for another job," he said. "At first when they announced the automation programme we kept hoping that they would change their minds, but now we know it's just a matter of time."

Mr Bremner, 51, has been a lighthouse keeper for 29 years. He spends one month on the island, where he shares a cottage with two other keepers, and one month off, when he is taken by helicopter to the nearby island of Lerwick where his wife and sons live. His main task is to maintain the light and keep equipment in order. Lookout duty, which is often thought to be a lighthouse keeper's job, is the role of the coastguard.

He will spend Christmas on Unst. "We'll have a roast dinner, but one of the other chaps will do it. I don't have to cook, because I am the head lighthouse keeper."

The automation programme puts an end to five centuries of maritime tradition. Trinity House, which runs the 82 lighthouses in England and Wales, was given its charter by Henry VIII in 1514 and erected its first lighthouse at Lowestoft in 1609. But the savings from automation are substantial. A manned offshore lighthouse costs around £100,000 a year to run. Automated equipment, which began to be installed in the 1970s, costs £500,000 and will last for 15 years, saving the lighthouse authorities £1 million over that period.



Bishop Rock: the remotest single post

X-rays reveal Jeni's secrets 3,000 years on

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE secrets of an Egyptian mummy have been revealed in detail for the first time in Britain without having to remove it from its protective cask. A team from St Thomas's Hospital, London, used the latest X-ray scanning techniques to get precise pictures of the mummy's body and skull that previously could be obtained only by unwrapping — and thereby destroying — it.

The 3,000-year-old mummy of the priestess Tjennutemgebtu, known as Jeni for short, is from the British Museum collection. Dr Jeffrey Spencer, of the museum, said: "Very few [mummies] are in good enough condition to last very long if they are unwrapped. Once, private collectors of mummies would have 'unrolling parties' when they would unwind the bandages surrounding the bodies, but nobody would dream of doing that today." The

examination at St Thomas's was carried out by a team led by Stephen Hughes of the medical physics department. Jeni was chosen because she dates from the twenty-first dynasty (1085-945 BC), when the art of embalming reached its peak in Egypt. She was encased in a decorated coffin made of a mixture of linen and plaster and fitted easily into the computerised tomography scanner at the hospital.

The scans, made in five sessions, were stored on magnetic tape and converted into three-dimensional images by a set of computer programmes developed at St Thomas's. Their usual purpose is to help to find the precise position of brain tumours.

One of the most interesting findings was the excellent condition of Jeni's teeth. Coarse grit from the millstones used to grind corn meant that teeth had a short



Old meets new: the 3,000-year-old cask of Egypt's priestess Tjennutemgebtu enters St Thomas's computerised tomography scanner

life in ancient Egypt, frequently being worn right down to the gums. The images, which show teeth in good condition and wisdom teeth that have only just erupted, mean that Jeni must have been between 19 and 23 when she died. Previously the museum had put her age between 25 and 40.

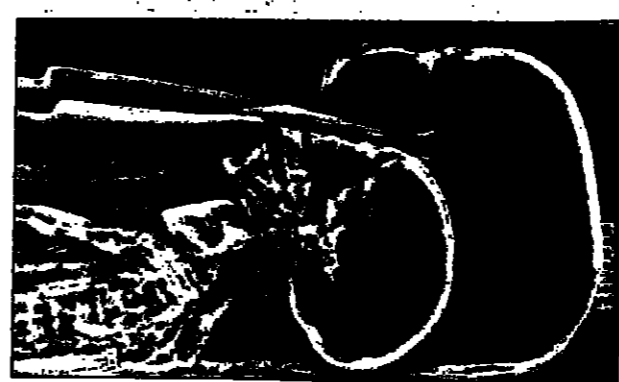
The images also confirm that the brain had been removed and replaced with a piece of linen stuffed into the skull through the nose. The Egyptians themselves left no

documentary accounts of mummification, so scholars have had to depend on an account written much later by the Greek historian Herodotus. Dr Spencer said the study of Jeni shows that Herodotus was accurate.

The images also show a series of amulets, including a hawk lying on Jeni's chest and a scarab over her feet. Her eyes had been replaced by artificial eyes, probably made of obsidian. A plate covers the hole in the left flank of the abdomen through

which the liver, stomach, lungs and intestines were removed. "The images show that Jeni was in a very good state of preservation," Mr Hughes said. "We have been able to find out a lot of new things about her that would have been impossible without this technique."

The British Museum and St Thomas's may examine further mummies from the collection, perhaps choosing several from different periods to study the change in embalming techniques.



Picture of youth: X-rays show Jeni was about 20

Soldiers killed in jungle

Four British soldiers died and 11 were slightly hurt when their lorry overturned on a jungle road in Belize, Central America.

The men were travelling from a camp near the border with Guatemala to Rideau, the headquarters of the Royal Highland Fusiliers, the resident infantry battalion in the former British colony.

The dead men were named as Fusilier Tony McAnally, from Port Glasgow, Strathclyde, Trooper Shaun Muirhead from West Yorkshire, Trooper John McConnel, and Fusilier B. M. Luker from the Isle of Arran.

Human torch

A man who poured petrol over himself in his lounge at Normanton, Derbyshire, and set fire to himself was critically ill in the burns unit in Nottingham City Hospital. Friends tried to save him when he ran flaming into the street.

Gas tap alert

A pensioner who forgot to turn off the gas when he went out caused an alert in Southampton. Police diverted traffic while firemen and gas company staff wearing breathing apparatus hunted the suspected leak. They had to break into the house.

Bus reprieve

For the third time, Volvo has postponed closure of its bus plant at Workington, Cumbria, which employs 150 people. The delay, until July, followed an order from Strathclyde for 52 buses.

Likely title

Wiltshire Community Foundation has given £500 to the inmates of Erisstock Prison, near Devizes, to help them stage the Christmas musical *True As I'm Stood 'Ere It Wasn't Me Your Honour*.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly Premium Bond draw are: £100,000 — 13FB 098175; winner lives in Exeter; value of holding £2,055. £50,000 — 33TS 121961; Lancashire; £9,650. £25,000 — 14FB 484870; Stockport; £5,020.

Money for tidal power dries up

By NICK NUTTALL

THE Mersey tidal barrage project, intended to generate non-polluting electricity and provide jobs in one of Britain's hardest hit cities, appears to be heading for closure.

Requests for £14 million for the final development phase are being ignored by the trade and industry department.

James McCormack, secretary of the Mersey Barrage Company, the consortium behind the scheme, said yesterday: "The funds were for preparing the project for Parliament, but officials and ministers seem to be against it."

The scheme has cost government and private industry £8 million. New figures indicate the complete project would cost £900 million, £60 million less than previous estimates, and could save 750,000 tonnes of coal annually and provide 5,000 jobs.

Labour urged to back selective welfare benefits

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith, the Labour leader, was challenged yesterday to abandon traditional Labour thinking on welfare policies and his own support for universal benefits.

Frank Field, chairman of the Commons social security select committee, urged Mr Smith to promote a new agenda of "work, wealth and opportunity".

Mr Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, said an increasing proportion of the electorate saw Labour as a backward-looking party, intent on holding them down. "Make the changes now or they will have to be made after a fifth election defeat. The need is to take welfare out of the ghetto

and place it firmly as part of the debate on Britain's economic and industrial future," he said.

At the launch of the Commission on Social Justice last Thursday, Mr Smith underlined his cautious approach to policy changes by reiterating Labour's commitment to universal benefits such as child benefit and pensions.

Mr Field said yesterday that there should be no sacred cows, and universal benefits should be thrown into the review being carried out by the social justice commission.

He urged Mr Smith to reconsider whether all pensioners should have their benefit uprated in line with prices, or whether the money should be targeted to the poorest groups.

In a background paper for the Fabian Society's new year conference on the future of the welfare state, Mr Field calls for a rethink of two centuries of welfare tradition. "The task facing Labour now is nothing less than designing policies that lock an ever-increasing proportion of the population into an income from work and welfare."

Mr Field points out that the richest 10 per cent of pensioners have an income more than six times higher than the poorest. "Should future increases go to rich and poor pensioners alike? Or should the whole of the increase for each year's uprating go to the poorest pensioners alone?" he asked.

Pension provision accounted for nearly a third of social security benefits, it had a substantial private sector provision, and acted as a bridge with industrial policy through the assets held by private sector schemes, Mr Field said.

Pension reform should aim to give pensioners control over their own pension capital, said Mr Field. He called for a move towards money purchase schemes, which are more flexible and rely less on employer contributions.

The way it isn't



A. L. Rowse
Is a bit of a grouse.
Though he certainly didn't grumble.
When Trevor-Roper took a tumble.

Prince
Hints
It may be odd
But he's God.

Tony Slattery
Must run on a battery.
Viewers beware!
Slattery can get you everywhere.

Tina Brown
Is the Talk of the Town
She is quite exceptionally well-read

In stories involving debauched millionaire aristos with dark financial empires and social-climbing wives (preferably dead).

Glenfiddich
IS A TIME YOU
CALL YOUR OWN

Oppo
in Be
alleg
corn

ELECTION

EC poise
Serbian

SANCTIONS

More work
needed'
on Start II

Serbia votes for president as US and Britain issue 'no-fly' zone ultimatum

Opposition in Belgrade alleges poll corruption

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SERBIAN opposition parties cried fraud yesterday soon after polling stations opened in elections regarded as the most important Balkan poll since the end of communism. Telephones rang continuously in opposition party headquarters as people called in from across Serbia to complain of irregularities. "If this trend continues, the election will have to be annulled," Svetlana Knezeva, of the Democratic party election

their sympathisers, who had boycotted other recent polls, had been struck off the new rolls.

Eve-of-election polls indicated that Mr Panic and Mr Milosevic were running neck and neck, but a straw poll at voting stations around Belgrade indicated that support for Mr Milosevic was holding up well. Support for Mr Panic was solid only in a village inhabited by ethnic Slovaks.

In Belgrade's industrial suburb of Rakovica the faded words "Viva Yugoslavia" could still be seen painted on the wall of the building where the poll was being held. A fresh, double-size "Serbia" had been painted on the next wall. "Milosevic is one of the greatest Serbs in history," one voter said. Support for Mr Milosevic was by no means solid, however, with a sizeable proportion voting for parties that regard him as far too soft on the national question.

An accountant, 30, said that she was voting for an extreme nationalist party because "Serbs must have their state wherever they have their houses, their churches, their children and their faith". In Pancevo, in Serbia's ethnically mixed northern province of Vojvodina, support for Mr Panic was stronger, but far from overwhelming. "Panic would make this place another Panama," one voter said.

Bush-Major accord, page 1
Leading article, page 13

EC poised to tighten Serbian blockade

BY GEORGE BROCK

EC FOREIGN ministers will today discuss appointing a "sanctions supremo" to supervise the tightening of the economic blockade around Serbia if Slobodan Milosevic wins re-election as its president.

While economic sanctions directed at Belgrade have been overshadowed by the debate over possible military action against Serbia, most EC governments believe tougher measures should be

taken if Mr Milosevic beats his more moderate challenger, Milan Panic.

One suggestion being discussed at the moment is the joint appointment, with the United Nations, of a senior international civil servant or politician who can co-ordinate the work of plugging the loopholes in the present embargo. "It's all a bit diffuse at the moment," a British official said yesterday. "There's no central point of authority and the UN doesn't have very good methods of making it work. It's all very ad hoc."



Power play: Milan Panic arriving to cast his vote in Belgrade. Support for his rival, President Milosevic, was said to be holding up well

Air ban aims to paralyse strategic centre

BY ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT, AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE ultimatum given to the Serbs yesterday by America and Britain is more than a face-saving device: it could have a decisive effect on the war in Bosnia.

The main point of enforcing the "no-fly" zone is to warn, escort to base, or even shoot down war planes criss-crossing the air space over Bosnia. Most Western military analysts agree that this alone will not have much impact since few Serbian operations are backed by aircraft.

However, it also poses a direct threat to Banja Luka, site of the Serbian forward air base in Bosnia and a fortified headquarters for Bosnian Serbs. It is a prime resupply centre for fighters throughout the region. If Banja Luka and the narrow corridor that is used to transport supplies from Serbia are disabled, the Serbs will be in danger of losing an important chunk of their captured terrain in northern Bosnia.

Apart from the psychological impact — showing the Serbs that their army is not invincible and the West is not paralysed — a firmly enforced "no-fly" zone could thus play an important military function. British doubts about subscribing to the UN resolution

— giving the Serbs 15 days to stop fighting before policing the skies — have centred on the questionable value of the "no-fly" zone. The notional gains of such a zone seemed slender indeed compared to the risks to the British ground troops. There was some British cynicism, too, about the motives of the noisiest of the interventionist states, America and France.

The Bush administration would perhaps like to be

as menacing as it has been portrayed by the Bosnian Serbs. Nonetheless, the large contingent of British soldiers in Bosnia has made Britain something of a hostage of the Bosnian Serbs. Certainly, Radovan Karadzic and his warnings of revenge are taken far more seriously in London than elsewhere in Europe. Dr Karadzic — celebrated as an epic poet on BBC television last week — feels that Britain is one of the weak links in the

European Community — or has this been quietly dropped? Lord Owen and his fellow UN peace-broker, Cyrus Vance, have put forward a constitutional package for a decentralised Bosnia divided into ten or more virtually autonomous provinces. But the plan does not seem to have gone much beyond the drawing board.

Slowly the stark choice is emerging: to launch a full-scale intervention in Bosnia with the aim of restoring the administrative hub of the republic, ending "ethnic cleansing", closing down camps and declaring the republic a UN protectorate until an equitable political solution is found, or to accept a partition of Bosnia between Serbia and Croatia with a small stretch of land left for the Muslim population. The latter option has always been more attractive to the pragmatists in Whitehall, though it cannot be stated publicly. Yet even the partitioning of Bosnia needs a degree of Western military participation if only to protect Bosnian Muslim enclaves.

With the threat of retaliation by the Serbs on British troops in Bosnia, the defence ministry in London has drawn up a number of options. Reinforce-

ment, with added firepower, seems the most likely if the Serbs begin a deliberate campaign of artillery and mortar attacks. Before the British troops went to Bosnia, ministers had given a warning that they could be withdrawn if they suffered substantial casualties. However, there is a determination among ministers to maintain the humanitarian mission which they believe is succeeding, despite Serbian obstruction, bad weather and appalling convoy routes along mountain tracks.

Despite the reluctance to withdraw the troops, the contingency planning is going ahead so that the government can make a choice in the event of a dramatic increase in Serbian attacks. Withdrawal would probably also involve temporary reinforcement to enable the troops to leave central Bosnia under armed protection. Such an option would be opposed by the soldiers who would regard it as a humiliation.

The third option would be to maintain the 2,400 troops in Bosnia without adding to the British presence, continuing with the relief operation in the hope that the Serbs see sense and keep their aircraft out of the skies.

Senate sends Fabius for trial

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

THE French senate voted yesterday by 286-1 to send Laurent Fabius, the Socialist party leader, and two former ministers to trial over the HIV blood affair.

The decision, sought by President Mitterrand as a way of clearing the air, marks the final act in an "antus horribilis" for French politicians and guarantees a poisonous climate in the campaign for the general election due in March.

In a theatrical appearance before the National Assembly on Saturday, the former prime minister, 46, depicted himself as a noble victim volunteering himself for sacrifice. "Innocent and recognised as such, I come before you to ask you to charge me with errors I did not commit," he said.

Pallid and dressed in a black tie and suit that gave him the air of an undertaker, a trembling M Fabius paused for the television cameras as he cast his ballot into the ceremonial urn used for parliamentary votes.

The rare Sunday senate session endorsed the National Assembly's decision on Saturday to send the one-time "dauphin" of M Mitterrand, along with Georgina Dufloix and Edmond Hervé, former health ministers, before



Fabius trembled as he cast his vote

the parliamentary tribunal to answer for their actions in 1985. That year, M Fabius's government allowed blood known to be contaminated with the AIDS virus to be distributed for transfusion.

More than 1,000 people are estimated to have acquired the HIV virus from the transfusions during the three months in question in 1985 and over 200 have died.

'More work needed' on Start II

FROM REUTERS IN WASHINGTON

THE United States and Russia have made real progress in negotiations on additional cuts in long-range nuclear weapons but are not yet ready to sign a Start II treaty, President Bush said yesterday.

President Yeltsin surprised officials in Washington last week when he said that a Start II agreement was in hand and would be signed before President Bush handed over to Bill Clinton, the president-elect, on January 20.

"I can tell you it is not agreed totally. We have made some real progress," President Bush said after holding a 35-minute telephone conversation with President Yeltsin. The discussion between the two leaders came during a meeting at the Camp David presidential retreat between President Bush and John Major.

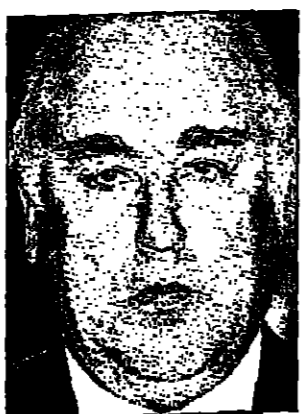
President Bush disclosed the call, which apparently also focused on Bosnia and the political situation in Russia, at a press conference with Mr Major after the two men returned to the White House. He did not elaborate on what progress has been made in the nuclear arms negotiations, but American officials sought to dampen speculation that President Bush and President Yeltsin might meet in Alaska to sign an accord early next month.

Moscow radicals to stay in cabinet

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin prized agreement yesterday from Viktor Chernomyrdin, his new prime minister, that the core of radical ministers would stay on after rumours that conservatives were planning to pack the cabinet with advocates of slower market reforms.

The new cabinet will be announced tomorrow and Mr Yeltsin has been pressing Mr Chernomyrdin, a moderate conservative, to retain key ministers appointed under Yegor Gaidar, the ousted acting prime minister, as a guarantee that the substance of reforms will not change. With confusion persisting about Mr Chernomyrdin's



Chernomyrdin says market not a panacea

policy intentions, Mr Yeltsin wants to make clear that he will not tolerate attempts to put Russia back on the road to centralism.

After several hours of talks between the president and the prime minister, Mr Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said that the government "maintains its loyalty to the idea of transition to a market

economy and intends to continue the reform course". There was no statement on the meeting from Mr Chernomyrdin's side.

Earlier, Mr Yeltsin had cut short his visit to China and flown back to Moscow after receiving reports of an attempt to dismember his government by packing it with conservatives. Mr Yeltsin's decision to return seems to have been linked to an article in *Izvestia* that quoted Arkadi Volysky, an influential conservative, as saying that there would be major changes in the cabinet.

Mr Kostikov reinforced rumours of a conservative cabal around the industry-led Civic Union seeking to capitalise on Mr Yeltsin's weakness in the aftermath of the Congress of People's Deputies and his absence from the country, complaining that "certain political figures and parties are becoming too active in questions concerning the formation of the government".

Mr Chernomyrdin, while repeating his commitment to reform, has said that he will not tolerate the impoverishment of Russia and that he favours "the market but not the bazaar". Before yesterday's meeting, he again qualified his support for reform, saying: "The market alone is not a panacea. Many countries have been living for a long time with market conditions and still not resolved their social problems."

Mr Yeltsin is clearly anxious to restore his authority, denied by the loss of Mr Gaidar at the hands of the congress last week. He cannot have been reassured to find hostile manoeuvring starting as soon as his back was turned.

Why Russians heed their master's voice

BY ANNE McELVOY

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's statement on his sudden return from China. "The master must return to restore order," was delivered with the grin of a man well aware that while the cat is away the mice will play.

But his words were also selected for their resonance in a culture traditionally dominated by the master-servant relationship and the notion of individuals — whether tsars or communists — destined to rule.

In its modern context the word Mr Yeltsin chose, *khogain*, means "the boss", derived from its earlier meaning of "master". It is an image which he has long cultivated, nodding towards the idea of that only an authoritarian leader can stop the place falling apart.

Russians live in a state of permanent disorder but this does not stop them fearing it and placing their faith in anyone who can restore calm. *Bezkhogoy* (literal translation — "without a master") means a slovenly, chaotic state of affairs in which no one is responsible and which was often used to describe Soviet enterprises.

But the word has echoes of a divine right to rule. *Khogain* originally meant "God" and later "the world" and later still "master", evoking the chain of authority from God to man on which the divine right of the tsars was based. The Romanov dynasty clung to that concept, and the tsar's title was "master of the Russian

lands". *Khogain* conveys the idea of a strong, benevolent ruler.

Titles suggesting authority generally have positive connotations in Russian and rather negative ones in English. Stalin styled himself as a *vozh*, equivalent to *Il Duce* or *Der Führer*. Bulgakov, in his novel *The Master and Margarita* chose the word "master" to reflect spiritual and intellectual predominance rather than the more common Russian words suggesting domination.

The image of the master returning to restore order among unruly officials and peasants often appears in 19th century literature, particularly Turgenev and Tolstoy. In the first epilogue of *War and Peace*, the threat posed to the nobility when Prince Bolkonsky dies is averted by the timely arrival of Nikolai Rostov to maintain the patriarchal order and whom the peasants greet as "a real *khogain*".

Mr Yeltsin, threatened by political rivals, is keen to reinforce the idea that strong leadership is desirable. In Nikolai Nekrasov's poem *The Forgotten Village* the master is absent and his stewards vie for power — conditions not unlike those which break out in Moscow when the leader turns his back. The peasants long for the return of a strong hand. Finally the estate owner returns, but in a coffin: an image Mr Yeltsin will prefer to forget.

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Rabin expulsions drive PLO into the arms of militants



Rabin: admitted he may have made misjudgment

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER
MIDDLE EAST
CORRESPONDENT

AS ARAB-Jewish violence intensifies, the prospects for a revival of the Middle East peace talks are growing more remote. On the eve of a visit designed to boost the European Community's profile in the troubled region, Willy Claes, the Belgian foreign minister, voiced the widely held opinion that the mass expulsions will weaken the hand of those moderate Palestinians willing to negotiate.

"I hope the peace talks continue but am uncertain how they can be restarted," Mr Claes said in reference to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's declaration that it will never return to the table until the 415 deportees are back home.

"I do not see any possibility at all of continuing with the

Labour may achieve what had seemed impossible: an Arafat-Hamas reconciliation

peace process," Sari Nusseibeh, a leading academic working with the Palestinian delegation, said yesterday after a meeting of Palestinian activists in support of the deportees in Jerusalem. "We cannot continue with the peace process unless Israel goes back on its decision."

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, countered the avalanche of world criticism and growing doubts among domestic commentators by asserting that the talks would go on despite the Arab protests.

"Even if the Palestinians do not come to the talks, the Arab states will continue the process with us," he told *Yedioth Aharanot*. As criticism in the Israeli press grew, Mr Rabin

acknowledged that he might have misjudged the situation. The result was less positive than he thought, he said.

Western diplomats believe that Israeli intelligence gravely underrated the willingness of the new Lebanese government of Rafik Hariri to keep out the deportees and thus revive world concern about the Palestinian problem not seen since the intifada began in December, 1987. It has been noted that between three million and five million Palestinians also live as exiles.

By threatening to "storm" back into Israeli-held territory on Wednesday if progress is not made to return them by diplomatic means, the deportees have signalled a grasp of

the publicity potential now open to them. Many journalists pointed out that, without the future over the expulsions, the shooting dead by the Israelis of six Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and one in the West Bank would have rated nothing like the coverage it received. "This has become a public relations disaster," an Arab official said. "That is about the only hope we have that they might reverse the decision but we are not confident."

Far from strengthening the Palestinian moderates, the crisis has helped bridge differences between the PLO, which for 14 months had supported the peace talks, and Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement which has vowed to sabotage them.

Leading representatives of the two groups — whose hatred was so bad it threatened civil war in the occupied

territories — are to meet in Tunis to discuss a co-ordinated response to the expulsions. A call for increased anti-Israeli violence is considered inevitable. A previous attempt at reconciliation failed when the Hamas team did not arrive in Sudan as arranged. Yasser Arafat, 62, the PLO chairman who was scathing about Hamas, has changed his tone since the deportations, now referring to the Iranian-funded extremists as a "patriotic force".

A key factor in increasing international condemnation of Israel has been its inability to control media, particularly television coverage of the plight of the freezing but defiant Palestinian fundamentalists in their bleak no-man's land between Lebanon proper and the Israeli-occupied buffer zone of southern Lebanon. Their encampment threatens to become a perma-



nent symbol of Israeli heavy-handedness in dealing with Arabs. While Mr Rabin's Labour party, which raised such hopes for peace with its election triumph in June, dismissed fears that the expulsions would undermine

the peace talks, Israeli right-wingers, who always opposed negotiations, endorsed Mr Rabin's actions. The hardliners feared that continuing the peace process would force Israeli withdrawal from Arab land.

Some Western officials believe that there is a strong faction inside the Israeli establishment which would prefer Hamas as the main Palestinian representative — it already claims to speak for 40 per cent of the people who are under occupation — because that would lessen the chance of international sympathy forcing Israeli concessions.

The *New York Times* was among those who are demanding rapid action by President-elect Bill Clinton to try to rescue the peace talks. "The Middle East peace process cannot wait until January 20."

Court fight, page 1

Deported elite defies Israel and winter in tent village exile

FROM ALI JABER IN MARJ AZ-ZAHOUR

BY DAYBREAK yesterday in this hillside of no man's land, the 415 Palestinians expelled from Israel three days ago lined up behind a bearded cleric to take part in morning prayers. Bare-footed, everybody knelt and then stood up humming Koranic verses. They repeated with the shahid prayers to God to protect their families and mosques.

It was the start of the third day for these men away from their homes. Nevertheless they have managed in a short time to organise their lives under sometimes impossible weather and accommodation conditions. The deportees arrived here at midnight on Thursday after they were dragged from their homes and jail cells in Israeli-occupied Gaza. The Lebanese army prevented them from entering the country and squeezed them into this three-mile-long buffer area, only a stone's throw away from Israeli guns in the security zone.

After the 15-minute ritual, the deportees immediately divided themselves into committees and took charge of cooking, medical care, sports, clearing, information and

education. "They came and said they wanted to move the tents because the engineers among them say it will work better if they are in a different configuration," a relief official at the camp said. "I told them, 'Fine. Do what you want. Just don't drag me into it.' They're incredible. They know what they're doing."

It is the make-up of this fresh group of deportees that explains their *sa'oir vivre*. They are all prominent educated figures of Gaza, gathering among them 14 doctors, 23 university lecturers, engineers and 120 mosque clerics.

"We have a society that can stand on its own," remarked one of the deportees, Abu-Laila Salhawi, 40, a chemist from Khan Yunis.

"We have two cooks from Najah university. We have construction workers who set up the tents and doctors maintaining round-the-clock medical services," he said.

United Nations convoys carrying food supplies, water reservoirs, heaters and ovens shuttled between the camp and the liberated Lebanese areas to the north to provide them with the minimum re-

quirements for survival.

The UN personnel, Lebanese Red Cross rescuers and journalists were the only people that the Lebanese army allowed into the no man's land. Scores of local Lebanese political leaders, Muslim fundamentalists from Hezbollah, and Palestinians living in Lebanon were denied entry into the camp.

"Our main driving force is our faith in God and in Islam," said the deportees' spokesman, Abdul-Aziz Rantisi. He emphasised during a press conference held at the door of his tent that there were no armed men within his group.

"We are a constellation of Palestinian intellectuals. Our struggle is to expose Israel and let the world know about the ordeal of the Palestinian people. We are not fighters and we are not terrorists," he said in perfect English.

According to Mr Rantisi, 108 deportees were prayer leaders or imams at mosques, ten were doctors, 18 engineers, 18 had university doctorates, 25 were lecturers at the Islamic University in Gaza and 250 held bachelor degrees.

He said that the aim behind their deportation was to "empty the occupied territories from Arab brains and intelligence". He called on his Hamas group, the Islamic Resistance Movement, to start a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and end the Middle East peace negotiations.

Many of the deportees were in prison before they were sent here. All of them felt happy to leave the cells and their Israeli jailers and breathe freedom, even if it was away from home.

However, amid the sky-high moral that pierces through the freezing cold in Marj az-Zahour, a touch of sadness can easily be detected. "I miss my children and my wife," said Abu-Laila. "I am dead worried about their well-being and safety. I was their only bread earner." He uttered in trembling voice as his eyes filled with tears.

Another source of distress was a dozen men aged 60 or more. They cannot always cope, and sit helpless in a corner of their tents, praying.

Israel digs in, page 1



Sleeper awaits: a Palestinian dozing in the no man's land encampment at Marj az-Zahour after being deported from Israel last week

De Klerk purges military top brass

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT de Klerk has ordered the immediate compulsory retirement or suspension from duty of 23 officers of the South African Defence Force, including at least two generals and four brigadiers: an unprecedented purge of the South African military establishment.

Mr de Klerk's action comes after last month's raid on a military intelligence unit by investigators of the Goldstone commission on violence when documents disclosing plans to implicate African National Congress members in crimes were seized.

Yesterday, white farmers threatened to take up arms and hunt down gangs of gunmen after a girl was shot dead in a midnight attack on an isolated farmhouse close to the border with Lesotho. Louise Pretorius, 14, was watching television with her brother and a friend at her home near Ficksburg in the Orange Free State, while her parents slept, when the attackers struck late on Saturday night. They

hurled a grenade which exploded outside, and opened fire with automatic weapons hitting Louise in the chest.

At a press conference in Cape Town on Saturday, Mr de Klerk said he thought the findings of the enquiry into the results of the Goldstone commission raid would "lead to the conclusion that some activities led to the deaths of people". The investigation into covert military activity is being carried out by Lieutenant General Pierre Steyn, the chief of staff.

Visibly upset by General Steyn's preliminary findings, Mr de Klerk said there was evidence that the officers had links with right-wing organisations outside government and aimed to "prevent us proceeding with our constitutional goals". Their names would be made public by the end of the month, but not those of what he termed their "civilian collaborators" — who would, however, be identified to the Goldstone commission and the police. Steps would be

taken to prevent evidence being destroyed.

Most of the officers involved are believed to be linked to the military intelligence unit known as the Directorate of Covert Collections. The Afrikaans newspaper *Rapport* claimed yesterday that they included Brigadier Tollerie Botha, head of the directorate, and Brigadier Ferdie van Wyk, director of army communications operations. The defence force refused yesterday to comment on reports that the two senior generals were Major General Chris Thirion, deputy chief of staff, intelligence, and Major General Henrie Roux, army chief of staff.

Mac Maharaj, an ANC negotiator, said the organisation commended Mr de Klerk for acknowledging a situation that had long been plain to the ANC, but he had not gone far enough. Further investigations into all security agencies were needed and should involve all parties taking part in the talks, Mr Maharaj said.

In the area of the Orange Free State where the Saturday night raid took place, there have been many attacks on isolated farms by gunmen believed to hide in the mountains of Lesotho, and yesterday the Lesotho government assured Pretoria that it would give full co-operation in hunting Louise Pretorius's killers. The South African foreign ministry said a joint police operation was under way.

However, Pieter Gouwes, president of the Orange Free State agricultural union, said the farming community would have to reflect on whether to accept the government's position on safety in the area. "Possibly the farmers themselves will have to take action to root out these attackers," he said.

Two posts on the border of the Eastern Cape with the nominally independent Transkei black homeland have been closed after gunmen wounded three whites driving home from a shopping trip on Saturday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

War victims 'killed in cold blood'

San Salvador: A forensic science report into the worst massacre of El Salvador's 12-year civil war says the victims were murdered in cold blood, a member of the investigating team announced.

Mercedes Doretti, an Argentinian forensic anthropologist, ruled out government claims that the 143 victims could have been killed in combat between troops and left-wing rebels. The bodies were exhumed last month from the ruins of a small parish house in the remote hamlet of El Mozote. (Reuters)

Activists freed

Madrid: Equatorial Guinea has freed more than a dozen opposition activists arrested last week, as well as two Spanish businessmen who were imprisoned for 12 years for alleged coup plotting. (AP)

Water deaths

Delhi: At least 15 people were killed when an overhead water tank filled to its 450,000-gallon capacity collapsed in the southern Indian coastal city of Vijayawada. A row of thatched huts was swept away. (AFP)

Kidnapper shot

San José: Orlando Ordóñez, 33, a former Honduran soldier who kidnapped a Costa Rican government official last September, was killed by police in Belize after he abducted El Salvador's consul-general there. (Reuters)

Manager jailed

Peking: China jailed Zheng Hongkang, a company manager, for ten years for dereliction of duty and selling state secrets to a foreign reporter who was said to have published them in a newspaper in Hong Kong. (Reuters)

Bail rejected

Islamabad: A Pakistani anti-terrorist court revoked bail for Salman Taseer, the spokesman for the opposition party of Benazir Bhutto. He is accused of sedition. (Reuters)

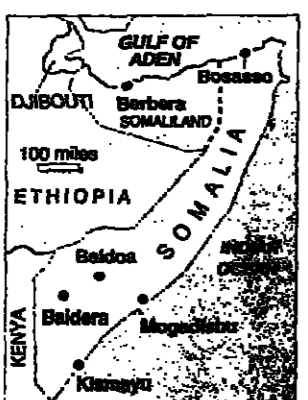
Marines land relief in city of looters

BY MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AMERICAN and Belgian troops swept ashore early yesterday to secure Kismayu, the port city that is the key to resuming relief operations in the so-called "dark zones" of southern Somalia.

Shortly after dawn, more than 300 American marines and Belgian commandos landed by amphibious vessels and helicopters from offshore warships as American warplanes from the carrier, *USS Kitty Hawk*, flew low overhead in a show of force.

A British pilot, Royal Marine Captain Paul Denning, who flies a Cobra attack helicopter with his American counterparts, was involved in only the second incident to involve casualties when his aircraft came under fire from Somali gunmen in Mogadishu. They turned the helicopter's withering firepower on their attackers, killing at least two of them and wounding three in a clash that destroyed three of the makeshift battlewagons used by clan gunmen.



"We were directly under threat so we had no choice. We responded straightaway and hit the vehicle with a 20mm gun," said Captain Denning, 31, from Bath. He described the dash last week as "a simple act of self-defence". Captain Denning added: "There have been no major incidents since then. It served as a warning and they [the gunmen] took it as such." In two other inci-

dents in and around Mogadishu at the weekend, the International Committee of the Red Cross lost 30 lorries laden with food to looters and the marines shot and wounded a young Somali on a "technical" gun-wagon. But the landing was completed within three hours, and without a shot being fired.

The joint force then had virtual control of a city where more than 60 had died only last week in fierce clan fighting involving an estimated 1,600 gunmen. Before yesterday, aid organisations had been almost unable to operate in Kismayu, with looters stealing up to 80 per cent of the relief supplies.

This was believed to be the first time American and allied troops had made a joint amphibious landing since the second world war, and Colonel Bob Peck, the US Marine Corps spokesman, said the operation, under Belgian command, had gone "very well and very much according to script". Before the landing, American planes had dropped leaflets on the city explaining the mission's purpose.

Kismayu, 240 miles south of Mogadishu, has a Soviet-built deep-water harbour and one of only two airfields in Somalia capable of handling giant American transport planes. It will be used as the base for restarting relief operations in the interior of southern Somalia. Another 460 troops are expected to arrive from Belgium today and on Thursday to bolster the city's garrison.

Further north, a UN convoy carrying 300 tons of food left Mogadishu under armed escort for the town of Baidoa, 150 miles inland, which about 900 American and French troops secured last Wednesday. The convoy, carrying enough supplies to feed 100,000 people for a week, was "the beginning of the end of the humanitarian crisis here," said Paul Mitchell, of the UN's World Food Programme.

Cuban pilot drops back in to pick up the family

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

ORESTES Lorenzo Peres, a former major in the Cuban air force who defected to America in a stolen Mig23 fighter plane in March last year, flew back to Cuba at the weekend on a daring mission to pick up the wife and two sons whom he left behind.

"It was all or nothing," Maria Victoria Rojas, his wife, said, adding that she had received instructions from her husband two days before the escape. "We were all running the risk together."

For the second time in 20 months, Señor Lorenzo dodged Cuba's air defence radar system by flying low over the 90-mile wide Straits of Florida that separate Cuba from America. "If you do not hear from me in one hour, you know I failed and I am dead," Señor Lorenzo told friends before he left Marathon airport in the Florida Keys, south of Miami.

Flying solo in a borrowed

Cessna 310 four-seat aircraft, Señor Lorenzo made the journey to the north coast of Cuba in 43 minutes, landing on the two-lane main road that runs along the north coast between Havana and the resort peninsula of Varadero.

Drivers on the busy road watched as Señor Lorenzo landed his plane between a bus and a lorry forcing traffic to halt. "I landed in front of a car and they all had to stop. I turned the plane around. I opened the door. They got in. And off we went," Señor Lorenzo said.

Señora Lorenzo and her two sons, Alejandro, six, and Reyniel, 11, had been waiting for five hours by the beach. "The children knew nothing, not even why we were there," Señora Lorenzo said. "It's your daddy — run!" she told the boys when they saw the plane. As they scrambled across the road, Alejandro lost his shoes, but all three



Pressure on Castro: held a "democratic" election

made it on board safely and Señor Lorenzo headed back for Florida.

A few minutes later, friends waiting in Marathon Key heard Señor Lorenzo's voice over the pre-arranged frequency. "At first I could not make out what he was say-

ing," Kristina Arriaga said. "Then I heard him say, 'A plane full of love is on its way' and I knew everything was OK." The family arrived soon after in Marathon where they were met by friends and FBI agents.

They switched planes to a

small executive jet and flew on to OpaLocka airport in Miami where they were interviewed by journalists. "I brought my family to the US and they are free now," Señor Lorenzo said. "It is the greatest feeling in the world."

Miami's large Cuban exile community received Señor Lorenzo as a hero. "He makes James Bond look like a small boy," said a caller to a local Spanish station.

Cuban poll: Cubans went to the polls yesterday in the country's first direct, secret ballot in almost 34 years of revolutionary rule under President Castro.

The government called the elections "the most democratic in the world" and told Cubans that it was their patriotic duty to vote. Few people expressed much interest in voting because all the candidates have been picked by grassroots Communist party organisations.

Photograph, page 1

Nationalists suffer severe setback in Taiwan polls

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN TAIPEI

TAIWAN'S ruling Nationalist party, the Kuomintang, was dealt a heavy blow in the first free parliamentary elections here in more than 40 years, making reunification of the island with mainland China even less likely in the foreseeable future.

The Kuomintang (KMT) still remains securely in power, with a majority of 61.7 per cent of votes and 96 seats in Saturday's election. Its arch-rival, the Democratic Progress Party (DPP), some of whose leaders were previously in prison, and which has called for Taiwanese independence, narrowed the difference. They gained 36 per cent of the vote and 50 seats in the 161-member Legislative Yuan.

James Soong, the secretary-general of the KMT, resigned last night, saying he was taking responsibility for the setback. "Our party is dissatisfied with the outcome, but we have to accept the voters' choice," a foreign academic noted. "These were the first really free elections in the 3,500 years of China's history."



Bubbling: Hsu celebrates the Democratic success

The DPP has exceeded its widest expectations. Diplomats said the voting illustrated Taiwan was on its way to becoming a genuine democracy, and proved to mainland Communist rulers that democracy was possible in a Chinese setting. Peking was unlikely to be happy over the growing calls for democracy here, and in Hong Kong.

The KMT has ruled Taiwan since the late General Chiang Kai-shek fled with his troops to the island in 1949 after defeat by Mao Tse-tung's Red Army.

Until the poll, the first without the participation of "old thieves", veteran mainland politicians who held seats representing "phantom" constituencies in pre-Communist China, the DPP held only 18 seats. In last year's national assembly election, the KMT won an overwhelming victory, garnering 70 per cent of votes.

Amid the pop of champagne corks at DPP headquarters, Shu Hsin-liang, the party chairman, said henceforth Taiwan would have two-party politics and that the DPP was working towards eventually becoming the ruling party. Independents and KMT members running without party blessing received 15 seats. Hsu Hsiao-dan, the stripper-turned candidate who said she represented the poor and dispossessed, lost by only 107 votes against a powerful KMT businessman.

Diplomats said the DPP's strong showing made reunification — the goal of the Chinese Communists and the KMT, though each on its own terms — less likely in the short term. The DPP campaigned for democratic reform, social justice and a crackdown on corruption, while the KMT emphasised continued stability and prosperity under its tenure. Independence issues were played down.



Prayer mission: Mother Teresa attending an inter-faith ceremony at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi in Delhi yesterday to express anguish over the Ayodhya mosque destruction. Police, meanwhile, arrested Hindu protesters in the Indian capital

Khmer Rouge releases UN peacekeepers unharmed

FROM REUTER IN PHNOM PENH

KHMER Rouge guerrillas yesterday freed 11 UN peacekeepers, whom they had kidnapped and threatened to kill, the United Nations said. The confrontation was the most serious yet between the UN and the guerrillas, who are refusing to implement a peace agreement for Cambodia signed last year.

The 11 UN personnel — a Uruguayan officer, seven Uruguayan soldiers, an interpreter, a Russian helicopter pilot and a Russian military observer — were in good health after their two-day ordeal, Eric Falt, for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac), said.

The release came after more than four hours of negotiations at the hostage site in Kratie province, eastern Cambodia, between General Nuon Bunno, the senior Khmer Rouge military representative in Phnom Penh, and UN officials.

On Saturday, the local commander who took the men prisoner freed three other UN hostages to deliver a warning to Untac that the 11 would be killed and their helicopter destroyed if an attempt were made to rescue them by force.

Mr Falt said the hostages and their helicopter arrived safely in the town of Kratie, a

government-held provincial capital about 15 miles from the village of Stoeng Thom where they had been held since Friday. It was the fourth time this month that the Khmer Rouge had seized then released Untac peacekeepers, but the first time the guerrillas had made a death threat. Khieu Samphan, the leader

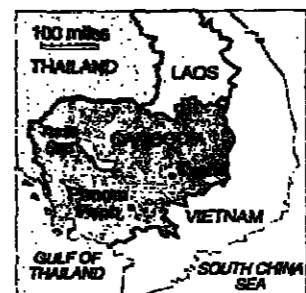
local guerrilla commander to seize the aircraft and take the men hostage, Mr Falt said.

On Saturday, Untac said that the peacekeepers had been invited to the village and described the hostage seizure as a "carefully constructed trap". It said that the hostage site was heavily mined and defended by a force of at least 350 well-armed guerrillas.

Untac's relations with the Khmer Rouge have deteriorated since the security council imposed trade sanctions against the guerrillas last month for refusing to implement the terms of the Cambodia peace accords signed in Paris last year.

The Khmer Rouge accuses Untac of not taking seriously its allegation that many Vietnamese soldiers are still in Cambodia. Vietnam says all its troops left in 1989. The Khmer Rouge wants the transfer of power from the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government to a body in which all four Cambodian factions are represented.

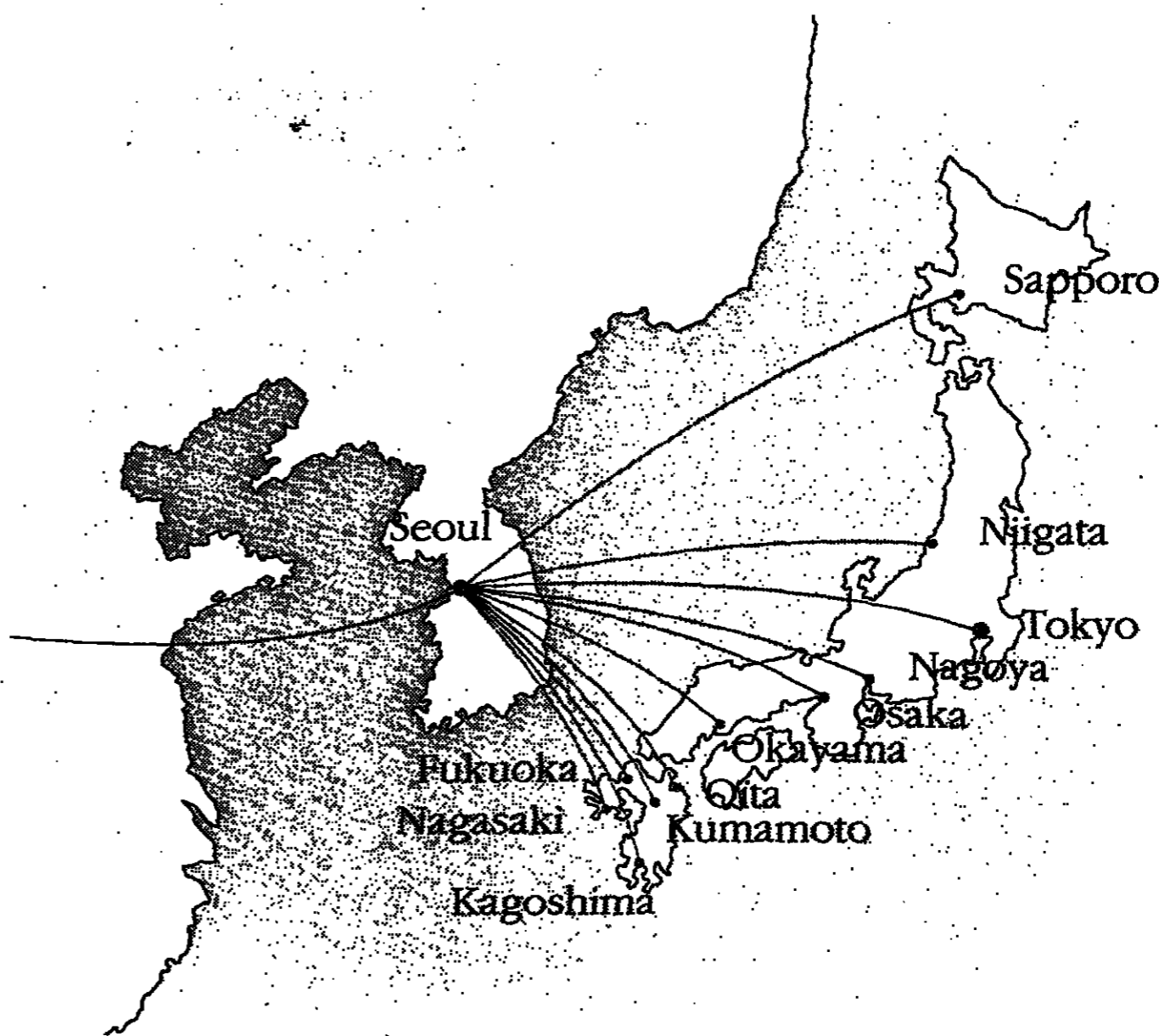
The radical guerrilla group, responsible for a reign of terror in the 1970s in which more than a million Cambodians were killed, refused to lay down its arms and allow peacekeepers into its zones as required under the accords.



of the Khmer Rouge, issued a statement yesterday accusing Untac of provoking the confrontations by entering Khmer Rouge zones without permission. He said that that was part of a plot to discredit his group and mislead the UN Security Council into imposing sanctions against it.

Untac has acknowledged that the peacekeepers' helicopter landed at Stoeng Thom without warning. That may have prompted a nervous

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KOREAN AIR

Korean electors vote for stability

FROM JOANNA PYTMAN IN SEOUL

IN WHAT was judged to have been Korea's fairest election, South Korean voters elected Kim Young Sam, the candidate of the ruling Democratic Liberal party, as their president, sending the first civilian leader to the Blue House after 30 years of military rule.

Mr Kim will take over from President Roh Tae Woo in February. In his victory statement, the president-elect said that he would try to unify the divided nation, work towards broad domestic reforms, and maintain traditional alliances with Japan and America.

For Mr Kim, the presidency comes as a reward for 30 years of dissident opposition and a debt and well-timed merger last year of his opposition party with Mr Roh's ruling party. Reports put the turnout at 80.4 per cent. Of that, Mr Kim won 42 per cent, giving him a higher margin than expected over Kim Dae Jung, the leader of the main opposition Democratic party, who took 33.9 per cent.

The third main candidate, Chung Ju Yung, 77, the business tycoon turned politician who founded Hyundai, South Korea's largest industrial conglomerate, had been expected to drain Kim Young Sam's support and therefore boost Kim Dae Jung. Mr Chung won 16.2 per cent.

Mr Kim's unexpectedly strong win betrays the fundamentally conservative nature of South Koreans who selected the candidate representing stability and continuity over his professional firebrand opponent, Kim Dae Jung.

The election is being interpreted as testimony of the progress achieved by South Korea in the short period since its military authoritarian rulers backed down in the face of mass protests and granted free elections in 1987.

On Friday, the three main candidates, from very different backgrounds, competed on tolerably equal terms, none of them challenging any fundamental precepts of government or society. Mr Kim will be judged by his ability to reverse slowing economic growth and rising unemployment, inflation and corporate bankruptcies.

Kenyans plead for food airlift

Nairobi: Up to 180,000 people in northeast Kenya are in urgent need of food because floods have cut roads there, Kenya radio said.

The district commissioner at Garissa appealed for an airlift to move food to areas cut off after several weeks of heavy rain. The local famine relief committee estimated that 180,000 people were at risk because it was not possible to transport food to feeding centres. (Reuters)

Guns stolen

Berlin: Robbers slipped into the army headquarters for eastern Germany, overpowered guards, and got away with machineguns, assault rifles and bazookas. (AP)

Unita pulls out

Lisbon: The opposition Unita movement has agreed to withdraw its troops from two northern Angolan towns and resume dialogue with the ruling MPLA. An American official said that talks could begin in the next few days. (Reuters)

Shop protests

Madrid: Thousands of Spanish shopkeepers gathered in the heart of Madrid's commercial district and clashed with police in a protest over the long hours kept by large department stores. At least four people were hurt. (AP)

Anti-bribe drive

Algiers: Algeria has named ten magistrates to tackle a web of alleged corruption ranging from charges of bribes from foreign firms totalling \$16.5 billion to smuggling through the Sahara desert. (Reuters)

Britons visited

Baghdad: A Russian diplomat, Oleg Dessianukov, who visited two imprisoned Britons, Michael Wainwright and Paul Ride, said that they were coping well and looking forward to Christmas gifts from their families. (Reuters)

Fatal abuse

Baltimore: Up to four US children die daily of abuse or neglect, a research centre survey said. Cases reported last year rose to 2.7 million, up from 2.5 million in 1990. (AP)

Dietrich's daughter has come to terms with her bizarre, and sometimes cruel childhood, Alice Thomson reports

My life with mother Marlene

When she was a toddler her mother accused her of having strangled up her breasts. By the time she was seven she was used to sharing her bed with a different man every morning, and at 15 she was raped by her nanny, with her mother's consent.

Maria Riva, the daughter of Marlene Dietrich, is in London to talk about her book on her mother. The book is a nail-crunching eyebrow puller, which leaves you squirming in your seat. Dietrich, we discover, had men with every meal and women in between. She was also desperately callous, discharging friends and lovers who had outrun their usefulness. After her affair with Yul Brynner, she wrote her daughter a note: "Goody goody. He has cancer! Serves him right!" While John Gilbert suffered a heart attack, Dietrich calmly went around his flat removing evidence of her presence.

Even if her mother had been a saint it would have been hard to cope. In her late fifties, Dietrich looked more beautiful than her daughter ever could. When Maria Riva herself opened on Broadway, aged 22, in



"I wrote about my mother because she was a fascinating woman, living in a fascinating time": Maria Riva looks back without anger

'If you don't know what a normal family is, how can you recognise that yours is abnormal?'

The *Burning Glass*, she proudly posed with her mother for a photographer. When the picture was published, the caption read, "The one on the right is the mother."

Maria Riva could have written a revenge story of Hollywood hell. But she is curiously unvengeful about the screen goddess and cabaret legend — and her mother trusted her enough to give her all of her correspondence before she died, a recluse aged 90, in Paris this summer.

"If you don't know what a normal family is, how can you recognise that yours is abnormal?" Mrs Riva asks. "My mother was in love or out of love continually. Wasn't every mother? When finally I did meet my first real family, the husband was sleeping with my mother and the wife would have liked to do the same."

Maria Riva does not look like the victim of child abuse. She cackles uproariously at jokes, sometimes hugging you close to her, sometimes clutching your hand. She is distinctly Germanic, with heavy brows and cheekbones and an athletic figure. Her body is draped in grey cashmere wool and grey leggings (unlike her mother she prefers to keep her legs covered), relieved by some discreet gold jewellery.

"Writing a book just because you are the son, daughter or maid of someone famous is very boring," she says. "I wrote about my mother because she was a fascinating woman, living in a fascinating time. If you write a book about revenge, it

shrivels you up. You have to get over all the emotional garbage to make any sense out of your life and those around you."

The book is admirably objective, but how accurate does she think it is? After all, Dietrich herself used to say: "No one will ever enter my private world." "I am 68 — I had a long life with Dietrich," Mrs Riva says. "In order to survive an omnipotent goddess figure you have to know them extremely well. She wasn't one person, one goddess, one myth, she was a multi-faceted diamond."

Maria Riva thinks that her mother's life was a tragedy. "She was so German in the way that Germans — and especially Prussians — feel that they must earn their rightful position, and never say, 'I remember those times — the decadence, the adulation, the abundance of everything. She never enjoyed those days [the 1940s] because she was constantly working at being the legend.'"

Maria Riva's hardest task was sorting myth from reality. "Marlene had the ability of instantaneous amnesia. She made her own world and the world aided and abetted her by accepting anything she said as gospel truth, even when it was obviously untrue."

As a result, her daughter is obsessively honest. "You and your goddam goddess truth," her mother used to say to her. But didn't she judge her mother at all, even once? "There is one place I have a right to judge my mother and that is my rape," she says calmly. "You do not take a virgin



Mommie dearest: Maria with her mother and father in 1936

young girl and shut her up in an unsupervised apartment with a clearly sexually aggressive male-female."

Maria Riva only compares herself once to Christina Crawford, who wrote the revenge book *Mommie Dearest*. "There is one scene where Joan Crawford is beating her daughter with a coalhanger. The social worker is standing in the room and doesn't do anything because it is Joan Crawford. That is the scene I connect with. There comes a point when you realise that you are absolutely helpless against the power of fame. You want to scream, she is not a god, but you are screaming into the darkness. No one wants to hear."

She is very matter-of-fact about her mother's love. "I respected Dietrich as a professional, but not as a human being. I never loved my mother. I had great pity and compassion but you don't love queens, you serve them. You wanted to please her and you wanted her to be satisfied with your performance in doing so."

Maria Riva thinks that her mother would have accepted the book only if it was well-written, because she could not have borne her daughter not to be a good writer. When you tell Mrs Riva that the book is well-written, she squirms with pleasure. Despite never going to school, her prose reads beautifully and her New York pub-

lishers have now given her carte blanche to write a novel.

Hers are scars, not wounds. Her life has veered in the opposite direction from her mother's. She has been happily married for 45 years, has four children, and devotes much of her life to caring for cancer sufferers. She admits to having inherited her mother's discipline. "My mother was neither a brilliant actress nor cabaret star but she did have a magnetic madness, and her discipline made it possible for her to be an incredible machine. I thought she did things beneath her dignity, but when she died she knew that she had done her duty."

She sees her mother's greatest gift as having shown women that they too could wear the trousers, could earn their own money, and live their own lives. Paradoxically, she says that although her mother loathed sex she always told her: "You have to go to bed with them, you know, because if you don't they will leave you."

"Now that's the most feminine old-fashioned remark isn't it? Something in her always wanted to be loved."

As I leave, I ask if she would mind being described as normal. Hugging me, she says: "If you're a teenage alcoholic who's been raped by a woman and tried to commit suicide, you have the right to take a little pride in the fact that people don't think that you are a raving lunatic. To be considered normal is dreamy."

Marlene Dietrich is published this week by Bloomsbury (£25).

Married to your work



LIBBY PURVES

Those earnest academics who specialise in First Lady studies will be hard at it this week. Their spouses will be left holding the pumpkin as they flip distractedly through card-indexes, muttering about Eleanor Roosevelt and Rosalynn Carter, and drawing worrying parallels with the second Mrs Woodrow Wilson, who kept the vice-president out of power after her husband had had a stroke. (She influenced world events considerably by the simple expedient of never letting anyone in to see the president unless they were in favour of the League of Nations).

For President-elect Clinton has confirmed it to the *Wall Street Journal*: Mrs Clinton is going to be in the cabinet. And anyone who doesn't like it — if I read his lips correctly — lump it.

No point in prejudging the issue. As any First Lady studies graduate will tell you, Mamie Eisenhower got hell for wearing silly little kiss-curls on her forehead, and even Martha Washington came under heavy fire over her desserts (untrustworthy foreign nannies instead of honest apple-pie). Mrs Clinton might as well go ahead: if you're going to be a butt of national abuse anyway, why not get a few useful amendments pushed through while you're about it?

Besides, I find myself nursing a certain glee at the example they are setting to private citizens nearer home. For two weeks ago, as the office party season opened, a grim warning was delivered by the Labour Research Organisation to British white-collar workers who — in defiance of probability and cruel strip-lighting — find their colleagues attractive. "Button up your coat and head off home", was the researchers' advice. Don't let the party spirit drive you to a proposal. Marrying colleagues gets you sacked.

What they had discovered was that many employers still hold rigidly to the ancient rule that wives and husbands may not work in the same department — sometimes even the same company. In a local authority housing department a husband was fired, and the industrial tribunal decided he had not been discriminated against because he was married — which would have been illegal — but because of whom he had married. So he lost. He wasn't the only one.

I was surprised to find that the old prejudice still has so much life in it. Clinton apart, it felt as if the last two decades had

eroded it away. What about those office-ensemble TV series like *Capital City*, where Dedan weds Michelle and all the Eurobond traders hug each other significantly at the wedding before racing back to corner the peseta? In real life, we are forever invited to marvel at Peter and Virginia Bottomley, the Branshags, the Rodicks, and Richard Madeley and Judy Finnegan. For spouses to work together, an informed Martian would conclude, is the coming thing.

But still the dread of it endures. Opponents of Mrs Clinton clearly share with those British managers the fear that a constant sexual and marital subplot will influence every dealing, dispute or alliance between the husband and wife, excluding other colleagues. (Ironically, this happens to be exactly the same fear working women have always had of men sneaking off during the coffee break to plot against them in the gents).

But firms which sack marrying colleagues are way off target. It is irregular passions in offices which cause the real trouble. Married couples cool down very rapidly, confine themselves to business talk at work and only sometimes, alone together in the lift, allow intimacy to break through in the form of curt mutual instructions about PTAs and Sanilav. They are little threats. If the Clintons disarm the doubters, they will do a lot of poor hard-working couples a great favour.

And incidentally no, I am not grinding a personal axe. *Au contraire*. My husband and I have twice narrowly avoided having to work together. The prospect appals him so much that he took to farming largely because he calculated that this is the only profession in which there is no risk of my turning up, beaming irritably, as his little helpmeet. Some men need, er, space. If Bill Clinton doesn't, bully for him.

Alternative Christmas in Totnes

The Devon guru Emma Lea sees no great cause to celebrate at this time of year — but she is still happy

Christmas is a time when most people would not wish to be reminded that "there is only emptiness". But in the Devon town of Totnes, seekers of divine wisdom are soaking up this existential message from an unlikely spiritual guru: a 25-year-old Englishwoman named Emma Lea. "Most people despise Christmas because when they were children they were taught that there was magic outside of them," Ms Lea says. "Then they find out that Father Christmas is a lie and the pendulum swings to a bitter, blaming energy."

That the rather vague answer to this familiar childhood crisis is to "find the true source of love" does not put off Ms Lea's besotted followers. For Ms Lea and her partner Chris Orchard, 31, are proclaimed to be Enlightened Masters.

The couple believe in the transforming power of their own relationship. "The dynamic of Chris and I being together is the latest God technology," Ms Lea says. Gurus are traditionally ancient, hairy and Indian. Ms Lea and Mr Orchard offer a rather mundane, domestic and British kind of nirvana which stresses ordinariness, happiness and the transcen-

dental values of love and companionship. It is a personal rather than political goal: for instance, according to Ms Lea, the ordination of women priests is ultimately meaningless. "They'll be just as unhappy," she predicts.

Two years after arriving in Totnes — which has become a favourite haunt of disciples of the New Age — Ms Lea and Mr Orchard have gathered about 25 followers (or "seekers", as they call themselves) who attend their sessions every week. Each pays £6.50, and the divine duo charge another £5 for extra sessions. They also have followers in other southwestern towns, notably Stroud, and are fast expanding operations. "They are getting enquiries from all over the country," says Tim Rose, the secretary of the Christemna Foundation, an information centre set up to spread the word.

Every Sunday, in a smart new flat, the two sit beatifically on a sofa, while at their feet the seekers (who are generally in their thirties and forties) pour their hearts out from scatter cushions. The seekers are mostly middle-class and split equally between the sexes: there are painters, gardeners and teachers, and their faith is



Spiritual double act: Ms Lea and her fellow guru, Chris Orchard, advise disciples to "find the true source of love"

unshakeable "Chris and Emma are the fixed star in my universe," Jill Thomas says. Simon Dunster, a painter and decorator who moved from London to be near his gurus, says: "What they are doing is so important that I just knew I had to be near to them."

The Christemna Foundation has been set up for the benefit of the followers: there is a fanzine (which goes by the name of *The Final Discovery* and features confessional poetry), and there is talk of expansion into other towns.

Though they have traditionally made excellent saints, martyrs and mediums, women have hitherto rarely risen to the top of the spiritual tree. Ms Lea blames the male stranglehold on language, literature and information:

"Talking about truth is masculine." But, on the other hand, she is hardly a pioneer of women's rights. "Most abuse of women is created by them fighting," she says. "But woman has suffered more than man, and through that she is more able to be in touch with the source of love." If Ms Lea can become a guru, then surely anyone can. But she always knew she was different, and has taken easily to the authority accorded to her by her disciples. Cynicism from the outside world does not intrude.

Ms Lea had a conventional upbringing in Bristol — her father is a management consultant. She has lost touch with her parents, who may possibly find it hard to cope with a daughter who is able to say "I

am God" without trace of irony. After she met Mr Orchard, who has a background as a student of matters mystical, the couple decided their quest had ended and they became a spiritual teaching double act.

However, Ms Lea does not identify with the myriad forms of New Age dilettantism. "Totnes is full of New Agers seeking glamorous spirituality. I'm not interested in that," she says. They find us a bit threatening, because they are doing all that stuff to remove themselves from relationships — to escape. Indeed, she and Mr Orchard are more interested in established religion, which they see as something that at least "devotes something to

your heart". And they are not anti-Christian.

A meeting with Ms Lea leads to a slippery feeling that there may not be much in the Christemna creed for the analytical mind to hang onto. But this is all part of the young guru's leap into the void. As she herself puts it: "You never find love through thinking power."

As for a guru's Christmas, "a lot of people put meaning around Christmas to build up to a point in the year where they are going to be loving to each other. But it never works, because they feel the pretence of it," she says. "Any Christmas I will be celebrating is from a knowledge that all beauty is within."

OLIVER BENNETT

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A gem of an idea

Jewellery is back, and the bigger, bolder and more brazen the better



Fashion

IAIN R. WEBB

THE season of rejoicing provides the perfect opportunity to really go to town, dress up, and outsparkle the fairy lights.

Without spending a fortune on a new dress, jewellery can add flash and pizzazz to even the most anonymous of outfits. Take the lead from the designers who use accessories to impact-making advantage. This season there is no such thing as over-

accessorising. The trend for baroque splendour, with all the trappings, provides a perfect chance to plunder the coffers, and pile on the family jewels.

Playing with images is what designers do best — juxtaposing something from the past with a future thought. Authenticity isn't the point. When designers talk of baroque it is a matter of translation, an interpretation rather than fact. Baroque is more likely to be a vision which alludes rather than replicates, a vision which provides a misty, quixotic impression of bygone days, as implausible as the casting of Raquel Welch as Madame Bonaparte in *The Three Musketeers*.

Baroque jewellery means big, bold, and brazen: crosses, bows, stars, hearts, and flowers; gleaming gold, set with oversized jewels: rubies, emeralds, sapphires, diamonds and pearls, or anything which looks as if it could be.

Designers have again realised the usefulness of the brooch, out of fashion for some time. Once seen as maternally, something a great aunt would use to pin a scarf to her shoulder, brooches are now being stuck on to the lapels of the demi-monde, or given a new lease of life, worn on a silk ribbon at the throat, choker-style. Many of the new brooches available come with a little hook (as well as a pin) on the back for this very purpose.

If the idea of looking like a latter day Margaret Lockwood does not appeal, then take a trick from the lady herself. In *The Wicked Lady*, Lockwood spent at least two thirds of the film swagging about the screen dressed as a *doppelgänger* of Dick Turpin. Highwayman coats, long and short, with grand, turned back cuffs and Peter Pan collars were shown everywhere for winter.

For dramatic effect scatter brooches on lapels, cover waistcoats with them, trim shoes. It doesn't have to be expensive, use what's available. Just have fun. Even if the jewellery isn't new, the way in which you wear it can be.



Jewellery (clockwise from top left): Heart shaped brooch, £58, from Butler & Wilson, 189 Fulham Road SW3; 20 South Molton Street, W1; 48 Buchanan Street, Glasgow. Cross drop earrings, £68, Butler & Wilson, as above. Girdle brooch, £40, Yves Saint Laurent Collection, 175-6 New Bond Street, W1; RJ Taylor, 4-12 Gordon Street, Lytham, Lancashire. Faux ruby and pearl brooch, £55, Palmer, 4a Motcomb Street, SW1; Robell, 44 Baker Street, W1. Bow clip with diamonds and tourmaline, £4,800, Boucheron, 180 New Bond Street, W1. Venetian cross brooch, £75, Yves Saint Laurent Collection, as above. Coloured stone and faux pearl brooch, £68, Butler & Wilson, as above. Ito brooch, £75, Yves Saint Laurent Collection Military diamond brooch, £120.50, Celine, 28 New Bond Street, W1; 6F Soane Street, SW3. Faux rhinestone brooch, £99.95, Fior, 27 Brompton Road, SW3. Faux ruby and pearl brooch, £55, Palmer, as above. Gift and faux pearl star brooch, £58, Butler & Wilson. Tourmaline, amethyst, citrine, emerald, coralline, ruby and lapis lazuli brooch, £8,250, David Hicks for Charnett, 178 New Bond Street, W1. Ruby and crystal brooch, £450, Fior. Amethyst drop earrings, £2,200, Tiffany & Co, 25 Old Bond Street, W1. Purple velvet and brocade jacket, £500, by Seline Blow from Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1. Black leather gloves by Denis, department stores. Photograph: Mike Owen. Make-up: Gina Crozier. Hair: Rick Haylor at John Freida.

Stop, look, lingerie

LA PERLA, makers of feminine yet practical underwear, swimwear, and bodies, has now opened a boutique in Harrods, its first within a British department store. Beautiful lingerie makes a good last-minute gift and La Perla is the most sought-after label on the market. As well as the main label collection, it will also feature Malizia nightwear, Marvel lingerie, and the La Perla perfume. La Perla Boutique, Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1.



Underwear from La Perla

Teddy from the boys

FOR the designer offspring of the mid 1980s generation, who were raised on mat black and Philippe Starck lemon squeezers, comes the ultimate teddy. Comme des Garçons, the fashion house, has sent out a matt black leather teddy bear as its Christmas gift. Recipients are advised, however, that the toy is "not suitable for children". Who is it suitable for then?

Thimblemania

AND now for something completely different. Thimble collectors, here is your chance to toast the tenth birthday of the Thimble Guild (an organisation dedicated to the thimble collector) with a new thimble on your finger. "Collecting thimbles is a fascinating and inexpensive hobby," says Arthur Bell, the guild's founder. "We would like to celebrate our birthday by inviting readers to send for a free blue willow-pattern china thimble as an introduction to the guild." Name and address on a postcard to:



Free: a china thimble

Department TT1, the Thimble Guild, Station Road, Biggar, ML12 6LP, or telephone 0899 21001.

A new place to hide

SUEDE and leather clothes are a treat to wear, but a headache if damaged. Chameleon Tailoring has had 20 years of experience, making clothes for retail labels, and by commission. It has now introduced a specialist repair and alterations service which can sort out your problems in just a few days. The owner, Frank Sanford, offers customers the opportunity to send their garment to Chameleon, who will assess the damage and then phone to explain the various options available, and the price. Chameleon Tailoring, 40 Peckborough Road, London, SW6. Telephone: 071 371 7000.

Steed is back in the saddle

A new breed of young bespoke tailor is about to invade Savile Row

A resurgence of top-flight English gentlemen's tailoring has been on the cards for at least a couple of years. The trend-conscious but well-heeled chaps-about-town have been slowly awakening to the fact that the initially liberating soft-shouldered, unlined, drapy look, exemplified by Giorgio Armani (to say nothing of the less well executed and brightly coloured suits cut on the lines of a grocery bag) are inclined to make one look as if one has borrowed one's father's Sunday best, or else that one has melted with-



Classics with a new twist: Oswald Boatang salivates at the mention of *The Avengers*

For those who would rather die than dress like Jonathan Ross, and who further believe that those unsmiling, big foreign men with necks like the leg of an elephant who front for the likes of Hugo Boss are nothing short of laughable, a new breed of younger tailor is poised to breeze into Savile Row. Such young bloods as Timothy Everest, Richard James, Mark Powell and Oswald Boatang are determined to put the bespoke back into tailoring.

Oswald Boatang is a tall, rangy Londoner of Ghanaian origin, who for himself favours the 1960s tapered trouser, pointed boot and Edwardian high-cut jacket. Mr Boatang (who is not related to the sharply-dressed MP Paul, although he is his tailor) is 25, and during the seven years since he made his first suit, he has built up a loyal clientele of more than 200. These customers are willing to make the pilgrimage to Mr Boatang's less-than-glamorous premises at the wrong end of Portobello Road, in west London, and pay between £500 and £1,000 for a two-piece suit. Why don't they go to a more famous tailor in Savile Row?

"A lot of people want the Savile Row look, but they are just terrified to walk through the doors of these places," Mr Boatang says. "That's one reason why the cobwebs have to be blown away — Savile Row is desperate for work, but it won't raise its profile because it thinks it's vulgar. I want everyone to know about me." Next year, Mr Boatang might have his own Savile Row address, as he is now sponsored by Wain Shill, the cloth manufacturer. Mr Boatang would then be following in the footsteps of the late, great Tommy Nutter (his hero) and setting up alongside another newcomer, Richard James.

Mr James's rather restrained window sports his ready-to-wear tweed jacket, impeccably tailored, very waisted, slanted pockets, slightly flared sleeves, double vents — in fact, everything an ultra-traditional Savile Row jacket from Huntsman would be. Mr Boatang goes on at great length about his love for traditional, classic tailoring (he mentions *The Avengers*, is to make him salivate) and one wonders what it is

about this so-called new breed of young tailor that is new. Is all the talk merely so much bluff and banter? Do we detect an echo of the emperor's clothes?

"I aim to provide anything the client wants, but basically classics with a twist," Mr Boatang says. Asked to elaborate, he will point to squared-off jacket flaps as opposed to rounded, slimmer trousers, surprising buttons and quite startling linings. Mr James's jackets are characterised by a winduppane check of a scale more usually associated with a travelling rug.

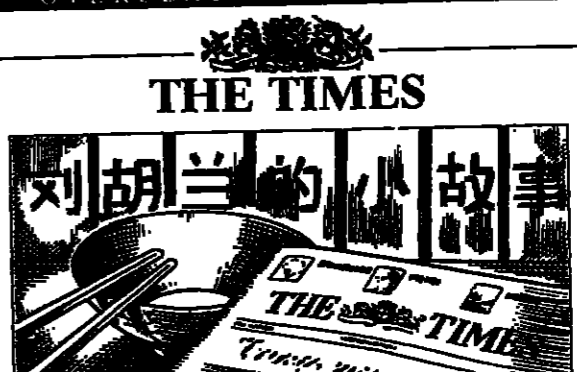
But the whole point of any bespoke tailoring, of course, is that you can always have any sort of detail you require, in addition to a suit that fits, feels wonderful and will last for decades. Indeed, it is old Savile Row that is justly famous for such freedom of choice, subtly incorporating tasteful signals such as jacket cuffs and covered buttons, as well as buttons clustered in groups on waistcoats with lapels. Ultimately, it is a question of

attitude: the "new breed" are (to the young) reassuringly casual and approachable, and they encourage wilder fabrics as well as detailing that can come perilously close to parody and outright dandification. Tommy Nutter was the pioneer of such daring, allied to superb workmanship, though whether there are enough rich young men out there to support an entire movement remains to be seen. That said, Mr James, Mr Boatang, Timothy Everest and Soho's Mark Powell all claim to have more commissions than they can handle.

My own tailor — Jermyn Street's John Lester (late of Savile Row's Henry Poole & Co) is bemused by it all: his training was so long and thorough that he was not let loose on a jacket until eight years had elapsed. Is the new breed here to stay, he wonders? "Definitely," Mr Boatang says. "Old Savile Row has lost touch — it's dying a slow death, and we are here to put that right."

JOSEPH CONNOLLY
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THE SUNDAY TIMES



Matthew Parris

■ It is unhealthy when things that are true, and expressed honestly, enrage people

Birmingham taxi drivers can moralise as well as cabbies anywhere. "Take reckless driving," said mine, swivelling round to face me from the driver's seat as we sped along the road. "I'll give you a recent example. The only daughter of a local couple was run over by a car. Killed instantly — terrible mess. The driver was only 16. No licence, no insurance. And he had nicked the car. They took him to court. And do you know what he got?"

"No," I said.
"Go on," he said. "Guess. She was killed, remember."
"Well," I hesitated. "I can't guess. It would depend partly on whether it was his fault."
"Well of course it was his fault," insisted the cabbie. "I told you, didn't I, he was a joyrider. No right to be at the wheel of that car."

"Yes," I said, "but how dangerously was he driving? The sentence would have to reflect that." The taxi driver grew impatient. "Look, she was killed, mate. Innocent young girl. Spread all over the road. And him with no licence, no insurance, nothing. And d'you know what they gave him? £80 fine and two months' suspended detention or community service, or something. It's a bloody disgrace. Think of her parents."

I persisted: "But look at it this way: say it was you driving along the road. Driving safely — OK? — and everything legit: tax, insurance, licence, everything, and a child runs in front of you. Nothing you can do, right? Child killed. Parents heartbroken, but not your fault. Are you saying you should go to prison?"

"Pause. No, but I'm in the clear, aren't I? He wasn't. Broke the law — stole the car and killed her. They should have taken him for everything he'd got. Didn't I say she was her parents' only kid? Think how they felt when they saw him walk free. Think how you would feel."

"But it's not the act of being without documents that killed her," I said, beginning to despair of the argument, "but his driving. The question has got to be, was it dangerous, and if so, how dangerous? Not having the documents is a lesser offence."

"Bloody disgrace," he muttered, "their only child. Blood everywhere. All over the road. And him with no right to be in that car."

Some arguments you just cannot win. The concept of atonement is embedded deep in our folk morality. It may find scant echo in official justice, but it resonates in popular justice. Whenever the consequence of negligence is worse than the negligence itself, people will want to see that reflected in the punishment. We might still be with Moses in the desert, rather than with try cabbie in Birmingham, for all the change of heart the intervening millennia have wrought. Like wood, popular thinking has a grain which will not easily counter, though all the logic in the world support you. Try, for instance, explaining to your grandparents why things do not really cost more than when they were children. You can carefully take them through the argument that when wages rise in line with prices the real costs remain the same, and they will nod and say, "Yes, dear, I see" — and ten minutes later be harping away again about how a Mini used to cost £500 in the good old days.

This fallacy is harmless; more awkward is the deep-seated human belief that a "fair" price or wage can be determined by honest contemplation, rather than by the state of the market. To my aunt — who votes Conservative, takes *The Daily Telegraph* and regards socialism as the work of the devil — a fair price is what will secure a "reasonable" profit after paying employees a "decent" wage. She believes it wrong to profit from scarcity or "exploit" cheap labour.

So do most of her countrymen. I doubt whether many bishops really accept the central principles of the free market. Most people think it's crazy for two bus companies to run the same route. How many people will defend the theory of competition when you put it to them that if two companies, side by side, are providing the same manufactured goods or services, duplicating energies and facilities in the pursuit of competitive advantage, then it's an immoral waste? When you put it like that, most people respond "hear, hear".

Our morality does not mesh with our economic system; but because we need both, they cohabit in an awkward marriage based on silence. Elected politicians, sharing with the electorate no moral language in which to discuss economics, are forced to lie or bribe where they ought to explain. Attempts to explain — in such phrases as "it isn't hurting, it isn't working", or "unemployment is a price well worth paying" — enrage the common people.

It is unhealthy when things that are true, and expressed honestly, enrage people. Peking is wise to modernise the Chinese economy before permitting democracy. Pinochet did the same in Chile. Boris Yeltsin is trying it the other way round, but in Lithuania we learn that President Landsbergis has failed. Has a popular democrat ever imposed a free market upon what was a command economy, and survived? I only ask.

A final example: for seven years as a Tory MP I tried to find a way of answering the one question which arose at every public meeting: "Now that machines are doing the work of so many people, Mr Parris, shouldn't we stop pretending that we can ever get back to full employment, and accept that forced leisure is going to be a permanent part of life in the future?"

Of course, this is a complete misunderstanding of the consequences of mechanisation, as every industrial revolution has proved. The same fear has arisen every time, and every time it has been proved unfounded. Yet no rational argument or example ever persuaded any audience, including mine, that this time, too, it will prove unfounded.

You might as well try to tell them that wrapping a block of ice in a blanket can stop it melting.

The real reasons for the American president's defeat are a warning to John Major, writes Peter Riddell

An alarm bell called Bush

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

John Major should have done more than commiserate with George Bush during their weekend get-together at Camp David. He should have found out the real reasons for the American president's defeat seven weeks ago. They provide a warning to Mr Major if he is to avoid defeat himself in four years' time.

At present there is a danger of premature optimism, even complacency, among ministers. That partly reflects relief after the horrors of September and October. Some ministers date the turning point to the "paying" debate on the Maastricht Bill on November 4; others refer to the Autumn Statement a week later. These events stopped the rot. A glimpse of better times has been added by the successful outcome to the Edinburgh summit and by the tentative signs of an end to the recession.

The worst of the debilitating battle over the Maastricht Bill may be over. After Edinburgh, and provided the Danes vote yes in the spring, the outcome at Westminster should not be in doubt. The pit-closure fiasco will soon be "reified". As long as the economy is moving upwards, however slowly, then political pressures should ease.

There is something in this, though a price still has to be paid for the débacle of September 16. The danger of a rise in inflation may soon reappear and taxes will have to be raised to bring public borrowing under control. The Tories face poor local and by-election results over the next 18 months.

The central question is whether the Major government can regain a sense of direction. That is where the Bush parallel is relevant. After Mr Bush's victory last April, American Republicans drew the wrong conclusions. They assumed that the Tories' negative campaigns against Labour over taxes and over whether Neil Kinnock could be trusted would work in America. But they did not. This was not just because of the way the attacks were implemented or because Bill Clinton positioned himself more adeptly than Mr Kinnock, and the Democrats were less handicapped by memories of the early 1980s than Labour was.

The main reasons why Mr

Major won and Mr Bush lost were less to do with their attacks on their opponents than with themselves. Winning votes turns on giving the impression that you are in charge and can change things. Mr Major and Mr Clinton conveyed that impression. Mr Bush and Mr Kinnock (through his desire to appear respectable and responsible) did not.

The Tories won because Mr Major appeared as the fresh head of a new government who had distanced himself from the unpopular aspects of the Thatcher era. He also skillfully finessed the inner contradictions within the Tory party, notably over Europe, which resurfaced only after the election. He gave people a reason to vote Tory. By contrast, Mr Bush looked tired, the stale head of an old government which had run

out of ideas. His successful handling of the end of the Cold war and his leadership during the Gulf crisis were not sufficient when he was so obviously not interested in domestic policy. He never showed why the American people should give him a second term.

Mr Major should read an article in the December 14 issue of *The New Republic* by James Pinkerton, former deputy assistant for policy planning in the White House, the equivalent of a member of the Downing Street Policy Unit. Mr Pinkerton is best known for his advocacy of the New Paradigm, a strategy for post-bureaucratic government resting on the principles of choice, decentralisation and empowerment. More bluntly, he argues that "Americans agreed that we weren't going to throw people into the snow, but we also agreed we weren't going to build socialism". The hopes of this group turned on Jack Kennedy's attempt to break up the rigid structure of public housing. Mr Pinkerton

records how these and parallel initiatives were frustrated by Mr Bush's lack of interest and the opposition of key advisers such as John Sununu, White House chief of staff, and Richard Darman, the budget director. The political opportunity of the victory of the Gulf war was wasted in minor legislative proposals. Instead, the Bush administration relied on managing the legacy of the 1980s. So when the election came, the president had little to say.

What Mr Pinkerton describes as a new activism in education, housing, health care and environmental protection has echoes on this side of the Atlantic. It is reflected not just in the agenda of the *No Turning Back* group of Tory MPs but also in parts of the citizen's charter and the work of the Social Market Foundation (former Owenite SDP members, now mainly Tories). Ministers can point to existing government plans in housing, grant-maintained schools and health service trusts. Fresh initiatives are promised in

the new year to show that the government has not lost momentum — in the areas of deregulation, education and training for 16- to 19-year-olds, government-industry relations, plus a consultative paper on road pricing.

The snag is that the whole is less than the sum of the parts. Ministers are busy, but in ways defined by the life of their Whitehall departments. The appearance is of incrementalism, even when the policies are more radical. That is partly the result of the switch in style from Baroness Thatcher to Mr Major. The citizen's charter is in many ways Mr Major's Big Idea — and it is not a bad one — but his presentation of it in mundane, everyday terms has invited ridicule and reduced its political impact. And, although a majority of 31 also applies new constraints absent during the 1980s, that is no excuse for a lack of coherence. The lesson of Mr Bush's defeat is that Mr Major has to maintain an active domestic programme. The Tories have to show not just that they can be competent in government (in doubt after the past few months) but also that they still have fresh approaches to policymaking.

The bun that would be king

Bernard Levin offers free advice to the fast-food merchants who are planning to move up-market

To start with, I bet you didn't know that in California (where else?) a financial business, called Montgomery Securities, has a "restaurant analyst" on the team: he is a Mr Michael Mueller, and in case you thought that he was the man from the local health authority analysing the food in restaurants to see if impurities or microbes have got into the *poulet de brosse* or the *dinde de saumon*, you were wrong. Mr Mueller analyses, no doubt with the help of regularly updated wall-charts printed out from his computer, the relative profit and loss positions in the market for hamburgers.

What is more, Mr Mueller's computer must be red hot by now, anent the news that the Burger King chain is going, as we restaurant analysts say, "up-market". Eschewing the offensive suggestion that Burger King could hardly be going down-market, let us see how the process is getting on.

It is getting on amazingly. First, Burger King is hiring waiters — real waiters, quite possibly topped up with the entire outfit, tails and all — to serve the customers. And what service! Burger King patrons can look forward to tablecloths, no less, and even napkin rings. (There is no reference to napkins, but a room full of customers twiddling their empty napkin rings would look rather forlorn, so I take it Burger King has attended to that problem.)

Mind you, that leads to another headache: I do hope Burger King is not proposing to provide very fancy napkin rings, for when the word gets around it will realise that the profit on even the biggest burger will not cover an 18th-century hall-marked silver napkin ring or, for that matter, a double-damask dinner napkin. (Ah, but you have to be as old as I am to know about the double-damask bit.) No wonder Montgomery Securities in general and Mr Mueller in particular can be seen in the latest Cadillac.

And it is not only the appurte-

nances that have been smartened up: it is the menu, too. No longer will the choice be between burger with pickles or burger with tomato sauce, burger rare or burger well-done, burger large or burger medium (there are, of course, no small burgers), for now we shall be able to tuck in to a meal — brought by a real waiter, remember — which offers among the burgers, delights such as *crispy chicken fillet*, *fried shrimp* and *steak sandwiches*. With all of these, Burger King will offer a choice of a baked potato or chips, and a salad or coleslaw, but there is one strange, sinister item of difference in the menu. Of those three main dishes, if you take the chicken or the shrimp you get a bread roll; but if you opt for the *steak sandwich* you don't.

For that, we shall very soon see Burger King in court: America being what she is, there will be a rain of plaintiffs claiming that the missing roll has deprived them of their constitutional rights and ruined their lives, and that the ensuing unassuageable hurt should be compensated by not less than several dozen millions of dollars. Meanwhile, Montgomery Securities and Mr Mueller have each bought a 38-room country cottage in the Adirondacks.

All this was started by Burger King's consumer research, guided by no less a figure than Mr Sidney J. Feltenstein, Executive Vice-President of Brand Strategy (and what's a nice Jewish boy doing in a title like that without making sure that the burgers are kosher. I'd like to know, and so would his mother). Anyway, Mr Feltenstein's enquiries fetched up at the "industry analysts", who found that Burger King, and even McDonald's, were being undercut by rivals, and Mr Mueller added a helicopter pad to his private ski-slope, while Montgomery Securities had the roof gold-plated.

The strategy, of course, depends on enticing into Burger



King restaurants those who, if they go out to dinner, prefer a restaurant with a wider selection of dishes, but Mr Mueller is on record as saying that such diners would be unlikely to go to a fast-food restaurant for dinner. "So it's questionable whether the strategy will work."

Suck it and see. But we can't, because the new, exciting, up-market Burger King is not available outside the United States, which is perfectly scandalous, because Burger King is part of Grand Met, which is a British concern (or was when I last saw it). I doubt if Mr Mueller will starve, though.

When did the Rise of the Hamburger take place, and why? I remember from childhood two figures who were always eating: Popeye, with his addiction to spinach, and

Wimpy, who was always munching what would be called a hamburger today, though I am fairly sure the word had not been attached to the thing then. More to the point, how did it set off the fast-food industry?

Brewer says that the hamburger was known centuries ago, and introduced to the United States by sailors from Hamburg. A "Hamburg steak" figures in the *OED*, but it is only described — its Hamburgness is not explained. No doubt McDonald's and Burger King and Wendy's (to say nothing of Wimpy itself) would say never mind the etymology, enjoy the taste. But that is the core of the mystery: how did the hamburger sweep the board, driving out even fish and chips?

How many vast herds, every year, are required to feed the insatiable hunger for half a pound of chopped meat between the halves of a soft bun? Think: there are 5,700 Burger King restaurants in the United States alone, and extrapolating from that stupifying fact I cannot see how the total number of hamburger eateries, worldwide and encompassing all chains, can be short of 50,000. How many hamburgers each a day? 1,000 at least, I guess: perhaps a good many more. How can such gaping voracity be placated?

I do my bit. You will be astonished to learn that I am very partial to a hamburger, though before you all faint dead away, I have to tell you that I do not frequent Burger Kings or any of their rivals. I buy the

finest sirloin from the finest butchers, trim it thoroughly, mince it carefully, season it properly, and cook it slightly longer than I ought to. Then I open a fitting bottle, put on the appropriate CD (something stirring, like the Schumann piano concerto or the Brahms first and declare the bachelor life not bad at all. Can Mr Mueller say more, for all his private jets?

That doesn't solve the problem of the origins of the name or the demand for the thing, and indeed leads only to another riddle. Have you ever wondered what happens in the German football league when — and it must happen every season — the Hamburgers play the Frankfurters? One day I shall get the mustard concession and be rich. Though not as rich as Montgomery Securities, of course.

Storybook ending

A CHRISTMAS tale to cheer the sonnet of hearts. Tim Waterstone, the puckish, balding bookseller and Mohamed Al-Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, have kissed and made up in time for the busiest week of the retailers' year.

Last month the two announced they were to "part company" only months after the razzle-dazzle opening of the Waterstone's bookstore in Harrods. Ivana Trump cut the ribbon, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare sipped champagne. The book world turned out in force. Hardly was the ink dry on the contract than Waterstone's announced it would quit in March.

There were reports that bookshop staff had been forced to work on Sundays. There were mutterings about the scruffy dress of some employees. Worse, Al-Fayed was said to have tripped over the same pile of books on the floor twice, and Lord Parkinson was reported aggrieved that there was no copy of his autobiography there two weeks after it had been published. It seemed as if nothing short

of a visit from Henry Kissinger would effect a reconciliation. But it has happened, and Tim Waterstone's departure for the US does not seem to have hindered the process. There are also suggestions that W.H. Smith, which owns Waterstone's, may have balked at the idea of writing off the shopfitting costs, estimated as high as £500,000. The most pressing reason, however, may have been commercial rivalry — the prospect of Dillons taking over the Harrods bookshop. Terry Maher, chairman of Pentos, which owns Dillons, says: "We did talk to Harrods but the terms they had in mind meant that it would not have been a profitable venture for us."

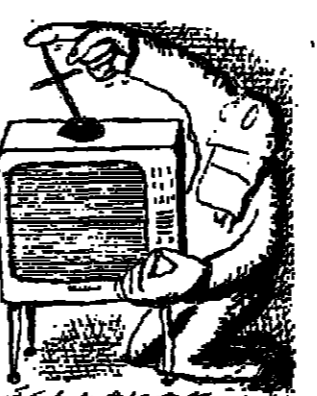
Waterstone's says it has now renegotiated its contract with the store but refuses to say on what basis. "It was a purely commercial decision to part and it is a commercial decision to stay." Goodwill towards men, including Waterstone's sales staff, has been restored and the tills will continue to ring out their merry Christmas message.

● Good news, too, for the troubled, depressed, sick and those who cannot stomach another round of Bruce Forsyth's Christmas Generation Game. From New Year's day



DIARY

they are to be targeted by Radio Vaticana, which is to broadcast English-language programmes via satellite. The new offerings from the station include Room with a View of the Vatican and, for those with questions about the Catholic faith, Ask the Abbot, a programme for which the diary predicts a cult following before spring.



Burnt-out case

THOR is alive and well and has anti-Maastricht tendencies, it would appear. Edinburgh's Scandic Crown Hotel, scene of much skulduggery during the summit, went up in flames early on Sunday morning and there is speculation that the curse of Maastricht has struck again. The hotel, opened two years ago, was to host the Campaign for an Independent Britain alternative summit this month. But with only days to go, the anti-Maastricht group had its reservation cancelled to make way for the Danish government, battling to find a palatable way of presenting the Maastricht treaty to its people. Now the gods appear to have struck back.

But it is not only the anti-Maastricht lobby whose wrath has been incurred by the Scandic Crown. The hotel, com-

plete with fairytale turrets, is considered by many to be a blot on the Scottish capital. Richard Murphy, an Edinburgh-based architect, says: "If people want to see Disneyland, then I believe there is one near Paris." With so many detractors, it is something of a triumph that the building has survived this long.

Naked affront

THE FIRST snows of winter have fallen on New Jersey, and in keeping with tradition Princeton University students stripped off for the "Nude Olympics". Last year 22 of those who frolicked in winter ended up making a court appearance in the summer after the local police filmed the event. They were each fined \$100, even one who claimed not to have been nude on the ground that he was wearing a skunk hat.

This winter, undeterred, 200 students participated and 198 managed to avoid arrest. The unlucky two have been charged with lewdness, disorderly conduct and the theft of a gallon of ice-cream. The university now says it would like to see an end to the tradition which began during the streaking era. But as Justin Harmon, a spokesman for the university, says: "It's not behaviour we can condone. It's

not behaviour we feel we can prevent."

This way, José

BRITISH RAIL has a fan. No, he is not British. José L. Pérez, a resident of Barcelona, has written to Paul Theroux to sing the virtues of British railway network. Pérez has just completed a journey round the coastline from Dover to St Andrews using as his guide Theroux's ten-year-old travel book *The Kingdom by the Sea*.

Pérez writes: "I'm pleased to inform you that the branch lines that you feared would disappear when you did your travel are still alive and well. BR had new regional trains to serve these lines that are a far cry better than the Spanish ones."

Theroux, who made the trip partly because he found himself joking about Bognor Regis without ever having been there, says: "Naturally I was delighted that a ten-year-old travel book still has power to inspire enough *vaya con dios* in the man from Barcelona to rediscover the British Isles through its railways. I was happiest from his letter to learn that the branch line to Whitby is still operating. As long as it stays open there is hope for the future."



A FRESH START

The new Bank governor should not be tainted by failure

The governorship of the Bank of England is the grandest, as well as the highest-paid, appointment in the gift of the prime minister. It is arguably the top job in the public sector and will become even more important if Britain ratifies the Maastricht Treaty, ceding more power to the committee of European central banks. Mr Major will therefore be making a decision of great symbolic and policy importance soon after Christmas, when he is due to choose the man or woman to fill this post. From what is known of the shortlist of candidates, Mr Major may be in danger of making a serious mistake.

One shortlist consists of several well qualified candidates from outside the public sector, such as Sir David Scholey, chairman of the merchant bank S. G. Warburg. The other shortlist includes senior officials from within the government, led by Eddie George, the Bank of England's present deputy governor, and Sir Peter Middleton, the former permanent secretary of the Treasury, who is now deputy chairman of Barclays Bank. It is clear which list Mr Major should use. If he is serious about improving the management of the public sector, he must not choose a candidate from inside the Treasury or the Bank.

This has nothing to do with the competence of the individuals in question. The reason for rejecting all serving and recent Bank and Treasury officials can be summarised in two phrases: Black Wednesday and BCCI. These have been two of the costliest disasters in the history of British public administration. The government's losses from the fruitless defence of the pound on Black Wednesday have recently been estimated at up to £6 billion by the authoritative *Journal of Central Banking*.

It seems morally inconceivable that any of the senior officials involved in the formulation and execution of monetary policy

should even be considered so soon after Black Wednesday, for promotion to the nation's most senior economic post. It would be equally bizarre if a Bank of England official whose responsibilities included oversight of bank regulation were made governor just three months after the publication of Lord Justice Bingham's damning report on the Bank's role in BCCI.

It may be that the particular officials on Mr Major's shortlist privately advised against the policies that led up to Black Wednesday. Perhaps they knew nothing personally about BCCI. Until the public records are unsealed in 2022, nobody will know who said what to whom in the secret recesses of the Treasury and Bank of England. But this is irrelevant. The people at the top of government must take responsibility for their departments and for mistakes made "on their watch", even if there is no documentary evidence to pin these misjudgements personally on them.

After Black Wednesday and the Bingham inquiry, the Treasury and the Bank ignored all demands for official resignations. The prime minister stood by his officials, partly because the individuals attacked claimed not to have been directly involved in the policy errors in question. Perhaps a presumption of innocence was fair when dismissals were being considered, but the same cannot be true when it comes to promotion.

To command respect as the next governor of the Bank of England, any present or recent official at the Bank and the Treasury would have to prove beyond doubt, and in public, that he was unimpaired by the débâcles of BCCI and Black Wednesday. If he could not do so, he would undermine confidence both in the Bank of England and in the prime minister's judgment. He would also prove that in Britain's public sector, failure does not bring penalties, but rewards.

WAR OR PEACE?

The choice in the Serbian elections is clear-cut

Slobodan Milosevic, say the cynics in Belgrade, would never have agreed to elections if he were not sure of winning them. The odds in yesterday's contest — which will have a weighty effect on the outcome of the war in Bosnia and elsewhere in former Yugoslavia — have been heavily stacked in Mr Milosevic's favour.

Mr Milosevic's power is based on his control over state television, his influence on the national bank, his command of the police machine and the sympathy of some generals within the former Yugoslav army. Thus in the weeks before the election he has been able to increase wages of workers and of dole payments to the unemployed simply by having more money printed.

In the past 18 months Mr Milosevic has presided over three costly wars and has succeeded in making Serbia an international pariah. Yet his institutional strength allows him to invert every failure and to project himself as a caring, patriarchal leader. The shortage of medicine, for example, is blamed not on the war with Croatia (which supplied many pharmaceuticals) or Belgrade's economic blundering, but on the callous West.

There is a strong chance then that Mr Milosevic could win the election more or less honestly. But the opinion polls that gave his main challenger, Milan Panic, prime minister of rump-Yugoslavia, such a convincing lead last week have to be taken seriously. In particular the city of Belgrade gave Mr Panic a resounding 69 per cent approval compared to 29 per cent for Mr Milosevic. The trend is similar, though less dramatic, in other large Serbian towns. Win or lose, that is the hope for the future of Serbia.

Mr Panic cuts a strange figure. A former bicycling champion who defected to America and made a fortune, who speaks Serbo-

Croat with a heavy accent, he entered the political scene only a year ago. The betting at the time was that Mr Panic would turn out like Ross Perot, or Stanislaw Tybrinski of Poland, businessmen-politicians who offered quick-fix solutions and failed for lack of a party or a coherent programme.

The mood, however, has changed. Mr Panic's promises may be unrealistic but they speak to the needs of the urban and more European-minded Serbs. He pledges not only to end the war, but to ease the police state conditions in Kosovo, put war criminals on trial and build a market economy.

Mr Panic has not delivered on any of these or other promises made at international conferences, but that is not entirely his fault. As prime minister of rump-Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — he occupies a fake job. But as Serbian president he could begin to make a real impact. Above all he could help prevent the spread of war to Kosovo and Macedonia. As such he must be the favoured candidate of the West.

An added danger may emerge, however, if neither man secures enough to win in the first round. Mr Milosevic could well turn all of his institutional power against Mr Panic and bring Serbia close to civil war. Or his frustrated supporters may again whip up Serbian nationalist sentiment in Kosovo, provoke ethnic Albanian unrest and plunge the region into chaos.

An argument can be heard in European chancelleries that a securely re-elected Mr Milosevic would be easier to deal with than a displaced Mr Milosevic who would do his best to destabilise the Panic regime. This line of thinking, however, should be rejected. The choice in the presidential elections is a clear one and should not be muddled with European pragmatism. It is a choice between war and peace.

SEASONAL SOLECISMS

Christmas Past: a series on the unchanging face of the season
Two: from *The Times* of 23 December, 1953

In the great saucer-like eyes of the law it is, one imagines, some sort of a crime or misdemeanour to write on a Christmas card anything more than one's name and a few words of salutation — unless, of course, the envelope is licked up and bears a two penny halfpenny stamp like a proper letter.

The manufacturers of these cards generally do most of the spadework for us. Underneath "With best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year from" it is only necessary for us to write "Jill and Jack", and most people, after doing this several dozen times and still getting only half way down their list, are well content to leave it at that.

An aberrant minority, however, seem unable to resist the temptation to use these missives for purposes of more or less rational intercommunication. The impulse to do so may stem from the desire to steal (as it were) a single from the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, or the writer, gazing down the interminable vista which this year will not really end before Monday, December 28, may have been moved by the same sort of forlorn feelings which cause prisoners to scribble on the walls of their cells. Whatever the cause, quite a number of Christmas cards are inscribed with matter tenuously if at all connected with their primary purpose.

Many of these marginal comments are inane. "How are you all?" for instance, was

if the writer had only stopped to think, a fairly pointless addition to a message of good will. Christmas cards from remote parts of the world sometimes bear items of information ("It's 102 degrees in the shade here!"), behind which, though they are interesting in a way, one suspects the ambition to *épater*.

Within the family or clan it is often deemed permissible to record developments of mutual interest in a kind of stop press; but it may be doubted whether Yuletide cheer is materially increased by inserting among the robins and the holly such legends as "Isn't it awful about Ronnie?" or "We think Antonia has whooping cough. I suppose this means that yours will be in quarantine. What a bore!"

Rarer, and even less forgivable, are the unashamedly operational messages which are sometimes included on Christmas cards. "Henry thinks he may have left his gloves in the car. Could you send them back if he has?" or "Do you know anyone who wants an Alsatian puppy (pedigree)?" — it is perfectly all right to make inquiries of this kind, but it is not *comme il faut* to make them on a Christmas card.

They should form, as bureaucrats say, the subject of a separate communication; and it may be laid down as a general rule that anyone who uses a main verb on a Christmas card has almost certainly gone a bit too far.

The law, the press and Parliament

From Lord Marsh

Sir, The final paragraph of your leading article, "Without apology" (December 15), encapsulates the main case for a review of the law relating to the press. You write:

A newspaper that opposes a government can on occasions try to destroy it. Those occasions will be rare. But they should be there. And there should be no politically appointed panel, however representative or sincere, to hinder or abet that duty.

What "duty"? Journalists, in common with most of us who work for a living, are employed by their newspapers for no other purpose than to provide the owners with an acceptable return on their investment. To suggest that journalists are invested with unique duties, and therefore rights denied to the rest of us, is a dangerous conceit. Dangerous because it is increasingly used as justification for behaviour by journalists under pressure to increase sales which would never be tolerated from any other section of society, including the police or elected parliamentarians.

In the course of my chairmanship of the Newspaper Publishers Association this issue arose on a number of occasions and each time a minority of council members tried to find some form of effective self-regulation. That they were unsuccessful is painfully obvious, but when *The Times* expresses the view that the press exists to protect "the ruled", i.e. the electorate, from "the rulers", otherwise known as elected members of Parliament, a few chuckles from the ghost of Bob Maxwell are understandable.

I am convinced, as I suspect are many others, that there is now an overwhelming case, in no way connected with the problems of the royal family, for parliamentary action.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MARSH,
House of Lords,
December 17.

Older mothers

From Dr Adrian R. Rogers

Sir, Libby Purves, in her article on becoming a mother at 40 ("Go forty and multiply", December 14), takes me to task for my view that younger mothers are generally to be preferred.

Older mothers, who are a relatively new and growing social phenomenon, have much to be commended — not least maturity, stability, often greater wealth and a sense of having already achieved in life. It is my personal experience as a family doctor that they make excellent mothers.

However, there are hazards, in addition to the well-known increased risk of foetal abnormality. Illness and death are of course more likely in the fifth and sixth decades, threatening to orphan young or teenage children; and the chance of handing on to the wisdom of life and motherhood to a second generation as a grandmother is considerably lessened.

May such matters of fertility long remain subjects of personal choice and never become subject to fashion or of frustration born out feminism.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN ROGERS
(Advisor to Conservative
Christian Fellowship),
Cranmere House, Trews Weir Reach,
Exeter, Devon.

At our service

From Mr Christopher C. Gay

The argument (Mr David Kiggell's letter, December 10) that local councils totally funded centrally would compete for service quality may at first sight be attractive. Such "competition", however, presupposes fair and accepted grant distribution, as presumably no one would argue that the needs of the stockbroker belt would be as great as an area of urban deprivation.

Grant distribution has reached a point of such complexity as to be fully understood by only three or four people in the land (the secretary of state for the environment probably not being one of them) and is highly contentious. No government has been able to provide a remotely satisfactory system.

What is needed for the health of our local democracy is locally raised revenue for which local councils are accountable to their electorate — not handouts from government calculated from obscure Whitehall formulas.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER GAY
(Chief Executive and Town Clerk),
Canterbury City Council,
Military Road, Canterbury, Kent.

Drivers who smoke

From Mr A. J. Haslam

Sir, Dr R. Scott Russell suggests (letter, December 15) that pipe smokers should enjoy reduced motor insurance premiums. Had he been in the car when some ash fell out of my father's pipe, setting fire to his trousers while travelling at high speed on the Doncaster bypass, he might think differently. Only considerable presence of mind averted a disaster.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. HASLAM,
The Granary, Green Farm,
Wark-on-Tyne, Hexham,
Northumberland,
December 16.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

A fitting punishment for murder

From Mr John McVicar

Sir, The widow of the policeman murdered by Nicholas Vernage, who was also convicted of murdering two other people (report, December 8), did not base her call for restoration of the death penalty on deterrence, as Bernard Levin implies (December 17), but retribution.

Her comments after Vernage was sentenced to life imprisonment were: "I know that nothing can ever bring Alan back but no sentence that our courts are allowed to pass could ever be enough. He is alive and my husband is dead."

Levin also claims that the best definition he has come across of madness is doing "that which most people do not do and would never do in any circumstances". I would think that the test applied by the courts is both better and more appropriate to his topic, that is, that the accused's ability to distinguish between right and wrong is impaired.

As for the "mystery" of Vernage's savagery, we do not have to look any further than TV reports of events in Bosnia for an explanation. It is easy to dehumanise other human beings.

Vernage is what the Americans call "a state-reared youth", who has,

during long periods of incarceration in various institutions, absorbed an intense hatred of authority. To him, policemen are Jews, Muslims, Christians, negroes, gooks... whatever.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN McVICAR,
75 Albert Palace Mansions,
Lurline Gardens, SW11,
December 17.

From Mr Stephen Bush

Sir, In the case of Nicholas Vernage, it may well be, as Bernard Levin says, "absurd to think that such a man might be deterred by the thought of the hangman". It is the potential murderer who needs the deterrent and the role of Vernage is to provide the awful example.

"Thou shalt not kill" is an instruction to the individual, not society. The abolition of the death penalty is an experiment which has failed us miserably. Look around: murders, rapes and all manner of loathsome brutalities flourish where there is no final authority.

Society must — yes, must — provide the just deserts of convicted killers. Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN BUSH,
26 Cherry Road, Rochester, Kent.

Economic recovery

From the General Secretary of MSF

Sir, The leap in unemployment figures (report, December 18) underlines how premature those Conservative valises are which once again talk of "economic recovery around the corner". Technical indicators may well begin to show signs of upturn but, if current policies prevail, it will be years before job creation is significant enough to make even a dent in the huge numbers of unemployed, particularly in London and the South East, which have taken the brunt of failed economic policies.

We must not allow the few "green shoots" as they surface to disguise the reality of what is necessary to secure real recovery. We must concentrate on policies which lead directly to the recreation of our wealth-producing manufacturing sector. We must give incentives to those who are able to develop the new technologies which can improve our productive abilities.

Bores? Not in my book

From Mr Tom Brimelow

Sir, I have always been puzzled by the professional librarian's public image, and Alison Roberts's review of *Drôles de Bibliothèques* ("More than bodies in the library", December 10) just adds to the mystery. Traditionally, librarians are bookish, impractical, out of touch, inefficient, officious creatures; yet, according to the authors, librarians in literature show that they display all human characteristics, good and bad. Why, then, the image of boring people?

My experience in teaching librarians at Leeds Polytechnic over 23 years was that they were livelier than other students. Their contribution to student societies, politics and functions far outweighed their numbers. At least two girls were elected Rag Queen.

Librarianship has always been in the forefront of technical innovation. Self-service and checkouts came in decades before the grocery trade caught on and we were teaching

computer principles in the early 1950s. Whence the fuddy-duddy?

Yours faithfully,
TOM BRIMELOW,
38a Field End Gardens,
Haltwhistle, West Yorkshire,
December 11.

From Miss Margaret Birkinshaw

Sir, I was dismayed by the inference in Alison Roberts's article, that Barbara Pym is a writer of pulp romance. Barbara Pym is a renowned writer of style, wit and distinction, whose wilderness years were ended when she won praise in *The Times Literary Supplement* from Lord David Cecil and Philip Larkin, and whose books have met with high critical acclaim. Ms Roberts's slighting and inaccurate reference to the plot of *An Unsuitable Attachment* does much disservice to a writer whose work has been compared to that of Jane Austen.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BIRKINSHAW,
87 Barrow Point Avenue,
Pinner, Middlesex,
December 11.

The Nuba people

From the Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan

Sir, I find the letter of Mr Robin Hanbury-Tenison and others (December 9) misleading. Recent tours of the area of the Nuba mountains by leaders of the Catholic Church in Sudan, led by Bishop Khamis Korkel and by a special UN representative, Dr Francis Deng, have conclusively established that there is no truth whatsoever in reports of unfair treatment of the Nuba people or any attempts to displace them. The government is spending hundreds of millions of pounds to rehabilitate this war-devastated area.

At no time did the government at regional or national level institute a policy of separating women and children from their families or sending men to forced labour. The moving of a few thousand people outside the war zone was a temporary measure dictated purely by humanitarian considerations. Freedom of movement for all individuals is guaranteed, and most people in the area have returned to their original areas now that they felt it safe to do so.

The Sudanese people are proud to have hosted over a million refugees from neighbouring countries who share our meagre resources. Over three million displaced people from the south are settled all over the north, where they receive education equal to and health care superior to that offered to the permanently settled people.

Yours etc.,
ALI MOHAMED OSMAN
YASSIN,
Sudan Embassy,
3 Cleveland Row, St James's, SW1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Remember Kabul

From Mr Sandy Gall and Mr Mark Scrase-Dickins

Sir, The situation in Afghanistan, and especially Kabul, has continued to deteriorate since you published our letter on September 8 giving details of the situation there. Dominic Arkwright's recent excellent reporting on Radio 4 reminds us of this, but the government, and Western governments in general, continue to do nothing. Their response to the UN Secretary-General's appeal earlier this year has been shameful, given their earlier support for the Mujahidin during the Soviet occupation.

Quite apart from humanitarian reasons, we owe the people of Afghanistan a moral debt for their part in the defeat of the Red Army and the collapse of the Soviet empire.

Successive American administrations are especially culpable, given their blind and misguided support for Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Hez-i-Islami, who are responsible for the slaughter in Kabul over the past few months.

Can we hope that Her Majesty's Government, beleaguered though it may be, will show some form of leadership in starting some practical assistance to what is left of the interim government in Kabul, and Ahmad Shah Massoud in particular? Do they actually understand the situation in Kabul and when did a senior British diplomat last visit Kabul to assess the situation?

In the meantime, we ask the people of this country to support the current Oxfam appeal to show that they, at least, acknowledge our debt to the people of Afghanistan.

Yours etc.,
SANDY GALL,
MARK SCRASE-DICKINS,
Doubledon East House,
Penshurst, Kent,
December 10.

Europe's uranium and nuclear waste

From Mrs Jessica Larive, MEP
(The Netherlands) (Liberal and Democratic Reformist), and Mr Madron Seligman, MEP for West Sussex (European People's Party) (Conservative)

Sir, The Euratom Supply Agency was set up in 1957 to purchase uranium, then scarce, for all users in the European Community. The agency is now using its monopoly powers to block uranium imports from the former Soviet Union.

It does so on the grounds that the uranium is too cheap and threatens the stability of the EC's regular supplies and suppliers. Such anti-competitive activity keeps the price of nuclear-generated electricity high, and needlessly raises industrial costs.

The political implications of this behaviour are serious. It defeats the EC policy of trading with ex-communist countries desperate for hard currency. Worse, if we close our markets to this uranium it will be diverted to less responsible buyers. This is particularly perverse, considering that only last month the European Parliament approved the Community plan to set up a Centre for Science and Research in Moscow with the express purpose of preventing the dispersal of the former USSR's nuclear and chemical scientists.

In protecting a single industrial sector, the agency is acting far beyond the intent and letter of the Euratom treaty. We hope the agency's operations will be closely questioned.

Yours faithfully,
JESSICA LARIVE,
MADRON SELIGMAN,
European Parliament,
Rue Belliard 8-10/47, Brussels,
December 15.

From the Executive Director of Greenpeace International

Sir, Your report that the British government is carrying out a Cabinet-level enquiry into Thorp, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd's thermal oxide reprocessing plant ("Enquiry underlines doubts over future of Sellafield plant", December 16) is an encouraging sign that the government is starting to recognise that the original justifications for Thorp no longer apply.

Britain is not alone. Germany, Japan, Belgium and Switzerland are reconsidering the rationale for plutonium production and use. Former Thorp customer Sweden now has a no-reprocessing policy. The US Defense Department, restated recently that the proliferation risks from reprocessing are unacceptable, even with existing international safeguards.

As the British government debates the opening of Thorp, governments around the world will be watching. It can only be hoped that the UK recognises that it cannot afford — for security, economic or environmental reasons — to open Thorp.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE SAWYER, Executive Director, Greenpeace International, Keizersgracht 176, 1016 DW Amsterdam, December 17.

Commercial disputes

From Mr David Steel, QC

Sir, As a result of the critical shortage of judicial manpower (report, November 23) the Commercial Court list is in complete disarray. The court's reputation, which has taken so long to establish, is quickly being lost, with serious repercussions for the City of London.

It is now time for the City institutions to establish their own commercial dispute resolution centre.

With purpose-made procedures and accommodation, and with judicial manpower taken from solicitors and barristers practising in the commercial field, acting either part or full-time (and perhaps also some present and past Commercial Court judges), the City institutions are equipped to offer adjudication, conciliation and mediation services unmatched in the world. With a sensible fee structure, there would be no burden on the public purse.

This is the only way forward to ensure that commercial interests are freed from competing for judicial resources urgently needed elsewhere. There is no time to lose.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STEEL,
2 Essex Court, Temple, E.C.4,
December 10.

Wheel of fortune

From Mr Anthony D. R. Holland

Sir, Any appointment of the managing director of London Underground to head the Prison Service (letter, December 17) would follow precedent established by the Home Office.

Sir Stanley Raymond, chairman of the British Railways Board, was appointed in 1968 to run the newly formed Gaming Board. It was widely assumed, at the time, that the Home Office were confused in their translation of *chemin de fer*.

In the event, the appointment was a success.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HOLLAND,
Windsor Manor,
Windsor, Surrey.

**DR CHARLES
ELLIOTT**



A tall, courteous man, Ken Elliott (he was known as Charles in London and as Ken in Cambridgeshire and by his family) is survived by his wife, formerly Elizabeth Margaret Kyle, whom he met in medical school and married in 1949.

Perret fought in the French army against Moroccan tribesmen in the 1920s and spent the second world war as a prisoner of war, inspiring his best-known work, *Le Caporal Epingle*. The hero, a buffoonish corporal with a poetic streak, recites a tongue-twisting line that teachers of

The novel nearly won France's prestigious Prix Goncourt in 1947, and was awarded the Grand Prix de la Ville de Paris in 1979. A film version was made in 1962. Perret was married and had a son and daughter.

Leatherhead was the son of an army bandmaster. He was born in Warwickshire, received his elementary school education in Birmingham and became one of the country's first shorthand-typists. He was mainly self-taught in both techniques but became so proficient that by the time he was 14 he had secured a post with the Birmingham Corporation. His clerical life had just started to bore him when he was broke out and, as the son of a professional soldier, he was additionally anxious to join the colours. He died about his age to join the Royal Warwickshire Regiment when he was 16 and within a few months was in action in France. He became a machine-gunner



sonal contacts but went straight to France, tracked down the studios of Picasso, Derain, Jean Cocteau, Marie Laurencin and the like, knocked on their doors and put the proposition to them. Remarkably, they all agreed.

With typical modesty Ascher always asserted that this was because times were hard. However, the result was a collection of limited edition scarves that reads like a role call of mid-20th century art. Ascher intended that they should be worn but they have been habitually treated as *paintings*, a fact which revived the controversy about the di-

He was devoted to the arts, particularly to modern painting. Taking the fine art into textiles theme to the extreme, he commissioned Matisse and Henry Moore to provide cartoons for enormous hangings which were painstakingly screen printed onto linen in the Ascher print room. He directed the printing and made sure that every nuance



Unlike Lida, who produced delightful small scale patterns for fashion fabrics, Zika Ascher did not design, but each season he "orchestrated" the Ascher collection. He had a brilliant eye, could spot young, artistic ability a mile off and was a superb colourist. His profession had the mun-

He was married in 1923 to Mary Elizabeth Morgan, who died in 1987. They had a son and a daughter.

Phillips also broadcast regularly on the BBC and Radio Luxemburg with his own orchestra featuring such musicians as Max Goldberg, Leon Goossens, Ted Heath and Ivor Mairants.



It was on the day he was to enter Harvard University that Van Phillips had a call from an old friend, the London-based American pianist and bandleader, Carroll Gibbons, who had returned to America to recruit two saxophonists for the Savoy Havana Band in London. In addition to his musical activities, Van Phillips became increasingly involved in political activity, as a socialist, as well as an active member and funder of the Communist Party of Great Britain, and remained so for most of his life. He also became president of the London branch of the Musicians' Union. He travelled extensively to other branches helping to increase the union's membership and bringing about the affiliation of other groups from the music world. In 1949, amid much controversy, he became chairman of the Musicians' Union. He

At 15 he ran away to Miami to play clarinet for a living. Walking home past a gentlemen's outfitters displaying the snazziest of tuxedos, buck-skin shoes, and white flannels, and desiring to become the best dressed jazzman in town, he

FAX: 071 481 9313

[illegible]



CRICKET 19

Nothing is left to chance on the passage to India



ARTS 25

Kenneth Branagh
A Prince of a Hamlet



BUSINESS 28-32

All Lord King of BA wants for Christmas ...

Television and radio
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THE TIMES

2

MONDAY DECEMBER 21 1992

Open champion repels Australian challenge to take world title in sudden-death finish

Faldo repels Norman's conquest

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN MONTEGO BAY

NICK Faldo yesterday completed another enthralling chapter in his astonishing career when he won the Johnnie Walker world championship following a pulsating sudden-death finish at the Tryall Course.

Faldo began the final round with a five-shot lead, but he found it anything other than a stroll in the Caribbean sun as the Australian Greg Norman launched a gallant charge.

Indeed, Norman walked off the 14th green one in front and he appeared to have the championship in his grasp until a dramatic twist of fortune on the 18th green.

There Faldo charged a putt of 16 feet into the hole for a birdie and a round of 68, and Norman contrived to miss from little more than three feet for a course record-breaking round of 63 and a total of 274, six under par.

Norman hit his second shot at the first extra hole into a fluffy lie from where he was unable to get up and down, and Faldo's cast-iron four gave him the title.

"It was do or die at the 18th," Faldo said. "I thought Greg would hold his putt but I also thought 'what the hell — go and knock your one in'. I was fortunate to have a five-shot lead. I couldn't do anything against him — he could have shot 60 — but I just tried to remain positive."

Faldo's sixth victory of the year gave him a new record of £1,558,978 for worldwide earnings in 1992. He also broke with a total of £1,225,348, the existing record for winnings in one year from events sanctioned by the PGA European Tour.

Norman knew that he would have to make an early move to disturb Faldo's equilibrium, and might have done so by holing from 15 feet for a birdie at the 1st to cut Faldo's lead to four. But Faldo responded by holing from 12 feet for a birdie at the 2nd.

Norman holed from ten feet for a two at the 3rd and he reached the green with a driver and a three-wood for a another birdie at the 4th after Faldo had been unable to get up in two. Faldo must have been confident that he had increased his lead from three shots to four when he holed from 25 feet for a birdie at the

7th, but Norman followed him in from 20 feet. Faldo, however, looked more concerned when he failed to hole for birdies from eight feet and ten feet at the 8th and 9th.

Norman maintained his momentum with a wonderful recovery at the 10th. He drove into a gully, where he found himself blocked out by a tree. His second shot finished right of the green between a bunker and the out-of-bounds fence, but he played an adroit chip to two feet.

The Australian was outdriven at the 11th, but he struck a lovely eight-iron shot to four feet from where he holed for a birdie. Faldo left a 12-foot birdie putt woefully short at the 12th, and he missed again at the 13th, where Norman made a two by holing from 15 feet.

Norman drove at the 14th tee only one shot behind, and he walked off the green one shot ahead. Faldo fired his drive right, found his ball in an unplayable lie amongst the palm trees and finished with a six. Norman hit his metal wood second shot just short, chipped to 20 inches and holed for a four.

Norman wobbled at the short 15th, played alongside the edge of the Ocean, where changed clubs and went over the green. However, he showed his mettle by splashing out to three feet for his par. Faldo looked dejected when he missed a birdie chance from six feet at the 16th, and the tide seemed to be turning finally in Norman's favour when Faldo missed another birdie chance from a similar distance.

An afternoon of high drama was, however, far from over. Norman drove into a bunker at the 18th. Faldo followed a safe tee shot with an approach to 15 feet behind the hole. Norman hit a wonderful shot from the sand which left the ball less than four feet from the cup. Faldo applied the pressure by holing, and Norman dramatically missed.

Tom Kite, the US Open champion recovered from a bad start to finish with a 70 for a share of third place with Davis Love III (66) on 283. Ian Woosnam had a birdie at the 18th for a 68 and a total of 284 to beat Mark Roe (70) by one shot for fifth place.



Driving to glory: Faldo launches into his tee shot on the 2nd hole in the Montego Bay sun yesterday

FALDO'S RECORD IN 1992			
Asian Classic	71, 67, 72, 67	-11	20th
Desert Classic	70, 66, 69, 69	-12	5th
Honda Classic	69, 74, 63, 71	-9	17th
Norfolk Championship	72, 77	+5	MC
Players' Championship	74, 69, 67, 74	-11	2nd
Proquest-Mulken Classic	68, 69, 69, 69	-7	6th
US Masters	71, 72, 68, 71	-8	13th
Volvo PGA	70, 72, 70, 69	-10	2nd
Spanish Open	70, 72, 70, 69	-10	2nd
Volvo PGA	70, 68, 69, 70	-11	8th
Dunhill Masters	69, 68, 69, 67	-16	4th
Wet Open	68, 68, 68, 73	-14	1st
US Open	70, 76, 68, 77	+3	3rd
French Open	71, 70, 65, 74	-15	3rd
Scottish Open	69, 68, 68, 65	-12	1st
The Open	66, 64, 69, 73	-12	1st
Scandinavian Masters	70, 72, 68, 69	-11	2nd
US PGA	68, 70, 76, 67	-10	1st
European Open	67, 66, 64, 65	-18	1st
Landane Trophy	70, 74, 66, 67	-4	17th
Paget Open	69, 67, 68, 74	-5	5th
Walter Hagen Play	71, 70, 71, 71	-5	40th
Bridgestone Open	73, 78, 74, 73	+16	23rd
Volvo Masters	72, 71	-1	4th
PGA Grand Slam			
South African Open			
Million Dollar Challenge	68, 72, 72, 69		
European Tour — other events			
World Championship	71, 70, 68, 68	-6	1st
Total			£1,558,978

Divisional games confound the critics

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union's ADT divisional championship, which has as many detractors as it has friends, has proved its value this season. It not only reached a splendid climax at Leicester on Saturday, where the South and South-West clinched the championship for the first time with an 18-18 draw against the Midlands, but it has confirmed the depth of talent in English rugby.

To judge the championship merely on players receiving caps in the five nations' championship which follows is short-sighted. Selectors may pick with greater confidence their reserve squads for the A-

international programme and tour squads such as the party of 30 England will send to North America in May.

Whether the selectors were right to announce their senior training squad for Llanrwst before the conclusion of the championship is open to question. Indeed Stuart Barnes, captain of the victorious South-West, did. "All the players had been carded anyway about their availability so the time factor is not that relevant and the decision seems strange if these games are to count," Barnes said.

Barnes was also critical of leading players who did not make themselves available for the championship, a reference to Will Carling and



Barnes speaking out

Peter Winterbottom. Carling, England's captain, was on holiday in the Far East for the first fortnight of December and Winterbottom preferred to train. "You have to

ask the question about the absence of some players, which doesn't help with the motivation for young players coming through the ranks," Barnes said. Rob Andrew, with 50 caps — has been a positive supporter of the divisional championship and when so many other England players have taken part it is important that the England captain sets an equivalent example.

Barnes does not believe that the divisional games offer a higher standard than that of first division club rugby. "It doesn't have the qualities you get from top first division teams and I still don't believe it's a step up."

South-West win, page 20

Smith to play from start despite his broken toe

KEITH Fletcher, the England manager, said yesterday he was confident that Robin Smith would not miss any early cricket on the tour of India after breaking a toe. The England party leaves for Delhi next Monday, with the first match starting on January 3.

Fletcher dismissed fears that Smith, whose big toe was hit by a ball from Chris Lewis during practice at Lillehall last week, would put him out of action for the first three weeks of the tour.

"It's just a little hiccup," Fletcher said. "He could play next week if we needed him to — and I am certainly expecting him to be ready for our first match in India."

There has been adverse reaction in Pakistan to the appointment of Tom Graveney, the former England batsman, by the International Cricket Council as a match referee. Graveney, 65, has been chosen to take charge of disciplinary matters during the Test and one-day series between West Indies and Pakistan in March and April. But newspapers in Karachi and Lahore have recalled his comment five years ago when he supported Mike Gatting, the then England captain, after his row with Shakoor Rana, the umpire. "They have been cheating us for 37 years and it is just getting worse and worse," Graveney said in 1987. Pakistan have made no official complaint about Graveney's appointment.

Omens are bad as Forest let more points slip

Nottingham Forest..... 1
Wimbledon..... 1

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE fact that Wimbledon could, for the most part, match the quality of Nottingham Forest's football spoke volumes yesterday for the problems besetting the Premier League's bottom club. Forest badly required a win to cut the gap at the foot of the table to a single point, but slipped up again at the City Ground, where they have now failed to win eight times this season.

Brian Clough's side is now facing the very real fear of relegation, a prospect hitherto regarded as improbable, for all their lack of points.

Without a seasoned goal-scorer, a commanding goalkeeper or much sign of rapport in central defence, Forest are struggling worse than their esteemed manager might care to admit. His son lifted their spirits with a fifth-minute goal only to make the mistake soon after which led indirectly to Wimbledon's equaliser.

Sensing the kill, Wimbledon then went for the jugular, no one more so than Jones, who did his utmost to goad Pearce. There cannot be many other footballers in the Premier League with such tenacity and Jones was in no way prepared to accept second best following the Trent End's chant of "Psycho is harder than Vinnie". To his utmost credit, however, Jones also provided some deft touches, one of which led to his side's goal.

Forest had gone ahead after Joseph had sold Scales short on the halfway line. Black intercepted his pass to send Nigel Clough racing through to clip the ball past the advancing Segers.

The pitch, still bearing traces of a heavy overnight frost, probably contributed to Wimbledon's swift reply. From Clough's wayward pass near the centre circle in the twelfth minute, Jones swept the ball

TABLE										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Norwich	19	13	3	4	34	32	38			
Accrington	20	9	8	3	31	21	35			
Blackburn	20	9	7	4	30	17	34			
Man Utd	20	9	7	4	22	14	34			
Sheff Wed	20	8	6	5	27	27	30			
Sheff Utd	20	9	5	6	33	21	30			
Sheff Wed	19	6	11	3	27	13	29			
Sheff Utd	20	7	8	5	30	27	29			
QPR	20	8	5	7	25	23	29			
Sheff Wed	20	8	4	8	34	32	28			
Man City	20	7	5	8	27	23	26			
Middlesbrough	20	6	8	6	31	30	26			
Sheff Wed	20	6	7	7	20	26	25			
Leeds	20	6	5	9	32	34	24			
Sheff Wed	20	5	8	7	25	25	23			
Sheff Utd	20	5	8	7	20	23	23			
Sheff Wed	20	5	4	10	17	24	22			
Sheff Wed	20	5	4	11	33	30	21			
C Palace	20	4	9	7	26	33	21			
Sheff Utd	20	5	6	9	18	26	21			
Wimbledon	20	4	7	9	26	31	19			
Nottingham	20	3	6	11	19	31	15			

diagonally forward. Crossley came sliding out of his goal and, carried forward by his own momentum, lost the ball in his attempt to keep it away from Clarke. From an acute angle, the Wimbledon winger found the far corner.

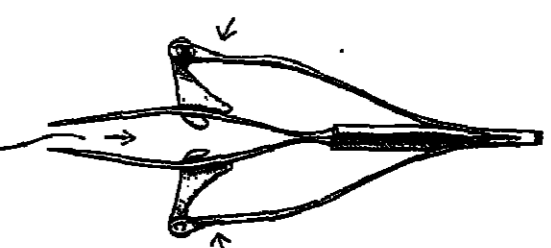
The blemish did nothing for Crossley's confidence and unnerved by the strength of Wimbledon's response, Forest almost disintegrated. Their jitters in defence were more than evident when Charlie belted the ball against Tiler, leaving Clarke to race free to attempt an unsuccessful shot. When Tiler later kicked air instead of a centre from Fashanu, who had replaced the injured Clarke, Crossley redeemed himself, twisting smartly in mid-air to keep out Earle's job.

With Talboys having a competent second game at the ripe old age of 26 in midfield against Keane, who was almost anonymous, Wimbledon thoroughly deserved to hold out when Forest stirred themselves into a late rally, which did not amount to much by their own previously high standards.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M. Crossley, S. Laws, S. Pearce, S. Christie, C. Tiler, R. Keane, G. Crossley, S. Gernik, N. Clough, N. Watson, K. Black.
WIMBLEDON: H. Segers, N. Arley (sub: P. Miller), R. Joseph, V. Jones, J. Scales, S. McManis, D. Blackwell, R. Earle, D. Holdsworth, S. Talboys, A. Clarke (sub: J. Fashanu).
Referee: R. A. Hart

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Whitaker finishes seventh in World Cup show jumping qualifier

Beerbaum's charge puts him clear in standings

By Jenny MacArthur

THE run of bad results by British riders in the Volvo World Cup qualifying competitions this year continued at Olympia on Saturday when the favourite, John Whitaker, on Everest Milton, finished only seventh but was the highest placed of the 12 Britons in the class.

Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, the Olympic individual gold medal-winner, won the qualifier — the ninth out of 14 — on Almox Ratina by the decisive margin of 3.35 seconds. The 29-year-old German started riding Ratina, the winner of the silver medal in Barcelona with the Dutchman, Piet Reymakers, only in September.

Beerbaum now heads the western European league for the World Cup, from which the leading 19 riders qualify for the final in Sweden in April. Unusually, there are no British riders in the top 20 John Whitaker, the winner of the Cup in 1990 and 1991, is the highest placed, lying joint 21st.

Whitaker and Everest Milton, who have won more than £100,000 on the Continent since September, had looked set to justify their status as favourites. But, first to go in the 12-horse jump-off, the 15-year-old Milton hit the first fence.

Whitaker thought Milton had been momentarily distracted by the starter's red flag. When the second horse also failed at the first fence, the starter was moved further away.

That was not the only criticism of the jump-off procedure. Franke Sloothaak, of Germany, who was sixth on Gina Ginelli, described the

twisty course as "terrible — there was not one normal smooth line". Nick Skelton, the British rider who was eighth on Limited Edition, was also critical.

Happily for Beerbaum, it was perfect for the athletic Ratina. Alexander Moksle, Beerbaum's employer, bought the ten-year-old mare for Beerbaum as a replacement for the German's Olympic horse, Classic Touch, who was being taken over by Ralf Schneider, the son of the horse's owner.

"It was a funny sort of jump-off," Beerbaum said, "but it was an advantage for me because Ratina can jump from anywhere." Peter Charles, of Ireland, who was runner-up on Royal Chocolate and the third-placed Thomas Fruhmarm, of Austria, on Bockmann's Genius, had a more difficult time. "Riding Royal Chocolate to the third fence was like driving an articulated bus," Charles, now fourth in the league standings, said.

Skelton, who has been second five times this week, dominated the show yesterday afternoon. He won the opening Everest Christmas Knock-out on Everest Florida and was then joint winner, with Sloothaak, of the Six-Bar competition, in which the final fence stood at 6ft 3in.

RESULTS: Volvo World Cup qualifier: 1, Almox Ratina (L. Beerbaum, Ger.), 0 in 32.78sec; 2, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ire.), 0 in 35.35; 3, Bockmann's Genius (T. Fruhmarm, Aust.), 0 in 35.78; 4, Classic Touch (R. Schneider, Ger.), 0 in 36.15; 5, Everest Milton (J. Whitaker, Eng.), 1 in 36.50; 6, Gina Ginelli (F. Sloothaak, Ger.), 0 in 36.50; 7, Limited Edition (N. Skelton, Eng.), 1 in 36.50; 8, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ire.), 0 in 36.50; 9, Bockmann's Genius (T. Fruhmarm, Aust.), 0 in 36.50; 10, Classic Touch (R. Schneider, Ger.), 0 in 36.50; 11, Everest Milton (J. Whitaker, Eng.), 1 in 36.50; 12, Gina Ginelli (F. Sloothaak, Ger.), 0 in 36.50.



Gift horse: Skelton, on Everest Florida, wins the Christmas Knock-out yesterday

YACHTING

Relief voyage has to be delayed

YESTERDAY brought more bad news for the hapless crew on British Steel II, the round-the-world yacht dismasted deep in the Southern Ocean last week, midway between Cape Horn and New Zealand.

The P & O ship NZ Pacific, which was due to rendezvous with the stricken yacht today and provide Richard Tudor and his crew with the 1,000 litres of fuel they need to motor to Auckland, is still in port undergoing repairs and is

unlikely to sail before Wednesday. Chay Blyth and his organising team have spent the weekend searching for an alternative.

The crew have set up a jury rig, using the spinnaker poles and boom, but with the winds blowing up to 25 knots from the north-west this improvisation is acting merely as a steadying sail.

Iain MacGillivray and his crew on Pride of Teesside, whose radar went on the blink

last week, had a further scare yesterday when they heard a loud bang. The fear was of another bottlescrew failure — or worse — but mercifully the only damage was a broken main halyard.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 1500 GMT yesterday): 1, British Steel II (P. Charles, Ire.), 1,000 miles; 2, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ire.), 1,000 miles; 3, Bockmann's Genius (T. Fruhmarm, Aust.), 1,000 miles; 4, Classic Touch (R. Schneider, Ger.), 1,000 miles; 5, Everest Milton (J. Whitaker, Eng.), 1,000 miles; 6, Gina Ginelli (F. Sloothaak, Ger.), 1,000 miles; 7, Limited Edition (N. Skelton, Eng.), 1,000 miles; 8, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ire.), 1,000 miles; 9, Bockmann's Genius (T. Fruhmarm, Aust.), 1,000 miles; 10, Classic Touch (R. Schneider, Ger.), 1,000 miles; 11, Everest Milton (J. Whitaker, Eng.), 1,000 miles; 12, Gina Ginelli (F. Sloothaak, Ger.), 1,000 miles.

HOCKEY

Firebrands lead field

FIREBRANDS, from Bristol, led the field at the halfway stage of the Crystal Palace league yesterday with maximum points from four matches and should be strong contenders for the national title on January 22 (Sydney Friskin writes).

Robert Hill hit all their goals in a 10-5 win over East Grinstead. Peter Head scored an exciting 8-7 win for East Grinstead over Totton. St Albans, the national

champions, had a number of players missing but Gilmour scored the winner to give them a 10-9 win over Canterbury. RESULTS: Bristol 10-5 East Grinstead; Totton 8-7 East Grinstead; St Albans 10-9 Canterbury; Totton 8-7 East Grinstead; St Albans 10-9 Canterbury; Totton 8-7 East Grinstead; St Albans 10-9 Canterbury.

RESULTS: Bristol 10-5 East Grinstead; Totton 8-7 East Grinstead; St Albans 10-9 Canterbury; Totton 8-7 East Grinstead; St Albans 10-9 Canterbury; Totton 8-7 East Grinstead; St Albans 10-9 Canterbury.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Clarke's late try finally settles Wigan's nerves

By Christopher Irvine

WIGAN had a surprisingly uncomfortable day out on the west Cumbrian coast before a try from Phil Clarke, eight minutes from time, ended the vibrant challenge of Workington Town, the third division leaders, in the third round of the Regal Trophy yesterday.

Rarely have Wigan, the champions, seemed as nervous as they did after conceding tries to Mark Mulligan and Paul Penrice either side of half-time.

Three early scores by Frano Botica, Denis Betts and Sam Panapa were the apparent hosts' advantage but the visitors were pressed into a fierce rearguard action. Edwards instigated Clarke's late score and Botica's fourth goal ensured a victory 24-12.

Paul Eastwood's six goals and a second-half try in the 24-14 defeat of Leigh helped Hull reach their first semi-final in the competition for seven years. Leigh led the first quarter, courtesy of a try by David Tanner, but the home side enjoyed a relatively easy passage after first-half tries from Rob Nolan and Ivan Henjak in three minutes.

Bradford Northern and Widnes, the holders, will both enter the draw today after their tie at Odsal was postponed until Wednesday because of a heavy frost.

Castleford were the first club into the hat after their second defeat of St Helens in eight days. A 12-8 win at Knowsley Road on Saturday, their first in 16 years in cup competitions against the Lancashire side, was heavily influenced by the dismissal in the fifth minute of Kevin Ward.

He faces a possible suspension at a disciplinary hearing on Christmas Eve for tripping Mike Ford, the Castleford scrum-half.

Frost caused six Stones Bitter championship matches to be postponed. Badley kicked off their third division match as Hunslet were on the coach home.

The referee had twice deemed the pitch at Mount Pleasant playable but Hunslet disagreed and now face a possible £2,000 fine by the Rugby Football League and a claim for compensation.

Graham Liles, the Hunslet chairman, said: "The referee said it was fit to play but the ground was like concrete. I couldn't allow my lads to turn out on that."

Ryedale-York's match was abandoned on the hour, due to the conditions, with the home side leading Barrow 60-0.

Hull Kingston Rovers fought back twice in the second half to beat Warrington 13-11 for only their third league win.

SWIMMING

Youth bring year to a positive end

By Craig Lord

A YEAR in which the nation's emotions in the pool have fluctuated between joy and sorrow ended on a positive note at Southampton last night when the youth of England were a close second to Germany in a three-nations junior international.

England's juniors can face the future with optimism after some superb performances at the Centre 2000 pool, particularly by James Hickman and Paul Bavier. England, also enjoying an unrivalled team spirit, finished within 30 points of Germany, the equivalent of two team races. Holland took the wooden spoon.

Bavier and Hickman, both 16, claimed three victories each. Paula Wood won the 400 and 800 metres freestyle and Susan Rolph the 200 metres medley. They were the only individual girls to break down the defences of Germany. England's girls also

won the 800 metres freestyle relay to leave them with four victories compared to Germany's 10.

Germany relied on the talents of Anke Scholz, 14, whose high-flying style helped her become the only girl to win three events.

England's boys claimed eight victories to Germany's seven, with all three relays going to the visiting team. While Bavier impressed most with 15min 32.28sec in the 1,500 metres freestyle, it was Hickman, as he had done a week ago at the Oprex national championships, who stole the show.

In winning the 200 metres backstroke and both butterfly events, he displayed the kind of skills usually only seen among experienced seniors: his turns were a lesson to all, as he regularly approached the wall down on his rivals but emerged ahead after an extensive underwater propulsion.

IN BRIEF

Leading players confirm boycott

England's 20 leading squash players have confirmed they will boycott the national championships in Manchester next month.

The players' decision follows demands for an increase in prize-money and the restoration of the traditional British closed title for the event instead of the proposed England-only tournament. They were turned down by the SRA, which says it has to cut costs to keep the event going, as it is unsponsored this year.

Akinwande draw

Boxing: Henry Akinwande could only draw against the raw Axel Schulz in his challenge for the vacant European heavyweight title in Berlin on Saturday. He is likely to be granted a return against the German early next year.

Washington: The new world heavyweight champion, Riddick Bowe, has lined up a former champion, Michael Dokes, as the opponent for his first title defense on February 6.

Wilfred Ward

Rifle shooting: Wilfred Ward, who died on Saturday aged 61, was joint founder, with Wing Commander Ron Guy, of the British Pistol Club. He shot for Britain in the world championships in Moscow in 1959, was secretary of the BPC until 1980.

Reid jackpot

Golf: The Scottish professional, Dale Reid, sank a hole in one in the final round of the Australian Women's Masters on Queensland's Gold Coast to earn a prize of about £21,000 for acting the 164-year, par-3 14th hole, more than the tournament winner, Jane Crafter, of Australia, who collected about £16,000.

Dampier leaves

Ice hockey: Alex Dampier, the Great Britain coach, has parted company with his club, Nottingham Panthers. The Panthers have registered only five wins in 15 matches this season in the Heineken League premier division.

Doubles defeat

Badminton: Gill Clark and Gillian Gowers's attempt to become the first English women's doubles pair to win the Rothmans world grand prix finals ended with a 15-7, 17-16 defeat to Yao Fen and Lin Yanfen, the All England champions from China in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Taylor through

Bowls: David Taylor, who lost in last year's final, qualified for the final stages of the English Bowls Players Association singles championship yesterday.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE (NFL): New York Giants 33, Kansas City Chiefs 21; San Francisco 33, Seattle Seahawks 12; Los Angeles Raiders 14, San Francisco 10 (San Francisco win division title).

ATHLETICS

MDL, Belgium: IAAF world cross-country championships: Men: 1, K. Schumacher, 20min 01sec; 2, J. Kruis, 20min 03sec; 3, D. Lowe, 20min 04sec; 4, J. Kruis, 20min 05sec; 5, C. Moore, 20min 06sec; 6, J. Kruis, 20min 07sec; 7, J. Kruis, 20min 08sec; 8, J. Kruis, 20min 09sec; 9, J. Kruis, 20min 10sec; 10, J. Kruis, 20min 11sec; 11, J. Kruis, 20min 12sec; 12, J. Kruis, 20min 13sec; 13, J. Kruis, 20min 14sec; 14, J. Kruis, 20min 15sec; 15, J. Kruis, 20min 16sec; 16, J. Kruis, 20min 17sec; 17, J. Kruis, 20min 18sec; 18, J. Kruis, 20min 19sec; 19, J. Kruis, 20min 20sec; 20, J. Kruis, 20min 21sec; 21, J. Kruis, 20min 22sec; 22, J. Kruis, 20min 23sec; 23, J. Kruis, 20min 24sec; 24, J. Kruis, 20min 25sec; 25, J. Kruis, 20min 26sec; 26, J. Kruis, 20min 27sec; 27, J. Kruis, 20min 28sec; 28, J. Kruis, 20min 29sec; 29, J. Kruis, 20min 30sec; 30, J. Kruis, 20min 31sec; 31, J. Kruis, 20min 32sec; 32, J. Kruis, 20min 33sec; 33, J. Kruis, 20min 34sec; 34, J. Kruis, 20min 35sec; 35, J. 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Simon Barnes sees Graham Gooch's squad pitched into some football-style preparation at Lilleshall

Cricketers put serious approach into practice

The revolution has taken rather less than ten years. England cricketers have long liked to stress that they are professional sportsmen, but for years this has been a lie. They have not been professionals at all. They have merely been people who were paid for playing a game.

For years, cricketers were nothing like as professional as the leading performers of what was then the Amateur Athletic Association. The commitment of the track and field athletes has for years involved a 24-hour regimen of work and diet: a total commitment to the goal of excellence.

I remember sitting on a hotel balcony in Trinidad with Phil Edmonds, early in 1986. One of the more calamitous overseas tours of recent years was whirling into a tailspin of defeat. I was writing Edmonds's biography at the time: it was one of those occasions, in the wake of a crushing defeat, where there is nothing to do but talk things out over a drink. Even Edmonds, seldom much of a drinker, went along with that.

"Can you believe that before we played our first match we had hardly any proper practice? Cricket is a pretty lethal game these days — and we hardly practised. We didn't even have the facilities for practice." Sigh. Click of bottle-neck on glass.

"Can you imagine McEnroe not bothering to practise before Wimbledon? Can you imagine Ballesteros saying 'ah well, it's only the Open. I'll just smack a couple of balls on the driving range and then get started?' Steve Davis practises for four hours a day when he's not playing a tournament. Eric Bristow throws a dart all day to get in shape for a competition." Guip, swallow.

"But the England cricket team, who were due to play the best team in the world, in a series in which people could be hurt and ran the risk of being killed — we seemed to be just Making Do. I could not believe it." Have another one, Phil.

Greg Thomas, then the Great White Hope for fast bowlers, was constantly asking for advice on the technicalities of how to bowl to whom. "Ah, just get out there and bowl," he was told. England cricketers may have been paid, but cricketers' soul was amateur.

So, let us fast forward from Trinidad to Lilleshall. Lilleshall, the name reeks of filamint. At Lilleshall, sport is a serious business. The England cricket squad — first team, a team, fringe players and net bowlers — have been working there for two days a week



Watchful in the wings: Gattings gets to grips with the on-the-field aspects of the game at Lilleshall, while, right, Fletcher and Gooch keep a close eye on the squad's progress off it



for the past six weeks. The first team depart for India on December 28. They do so about as well prepared as you could manage in a sudden English December. This is all because of something called the Whittingdale Cricket Plan: the 24-Hour Total Cricket Environment.

The players have worked on a physical fitness programme designed by something called, believe it or not, the Lilleshall Human Performance Centre. A handout informs me: "There is a weekly circuit training session, a sprinting session, work to develop a basic level of endurance, and regular mobility work."

Dennis Compton never did that, nor did Fred Trueman, and C. B. Fry thought practice was a kind of cheating. All this Lilleshall stuff does sound frightfully Gooch, and even more frightfully football. On the other hand, neither of those is a bad thing to be

And, in fact, the main emphasis of preparation has been on cricket skills. It has all been done with

great seriousness: videos and specialist coaches like Geoff Arnold, John Lever and Alan Knott.

Much of the practice has taken place in a hall that has been turned into the world's largest indoor net. Bowlers can get a proper run-up, wicketkeeper can stand back and dive about, and when a batsman hits the ball, it stays hit. That makes practice particularly satisfactory. I watched Fairbrother working the ball around in his usual sprightly fashion, but when Hick took over and started demonstrating his one-day form, I withdrew. You don't want to get too near that big bat when that is happening. Will it happen in Indian Test matches, I wonder?

Certainly, Hick's own commitment to professionalism has involved consultation with a sports psychologist. "I've been thinking about all good things, thinking about what I have enjoyed," he says.

Attention to detail has been impressive throughout the practice sessions. Different mats are used

to mimic the different playing surfaces the players will encounter. There is a spinner's mat for the anticipated Indian turner. The A-team bowlers have been working Kookaburra balls, which they will be using in Australia: the first-team squad has been using the Indian SG Test ball. Everywhere

come on over the past six weeks," Paul Jarvis says. "Geoff Arnold has been a tremendous help. He has helped me to get a real zip off the pitch."

As yet another step towards professionalism, Keith Fletcher, the new manager, has been on a scouting trip, and has seen the

"This is the most successful preparation we have ever had," Graham Gooch, the captain, says. "Because of what we have done, we are much further down the road."

Not everybody sees this professionalism as good news. What of the cavaliers, the talented, devil-may-care players who make cricket a delight and a joy?

What of the C. B. Frys and the Ted Dexters and the Colin Millburns? What, for that matter, of David Gower? Has the fun gone out of the game? And with it the beauty?

Many people resent the footballisation of cricket, with managers and physios and scouting and weight-training and all. But either you are professional, or you are not.

For nothing stays the same. The essence of sport is not beauty, but competition. Standards of fitness and preparation have risen beyond recognition in all sports and in all countries, and as standards rise, you either lift your own, or you

fail to compete. There is no third way.

Sport is more grim and serious than it was 30 years ago; well, so are a lot of other things. Sport has been elevated to a peak of seriousness and commitment that was never dreamed of when the sports were invented. The meadow game with the curious name is now a matter of human performance: assessment and professional psychologists and higher technology and endless hours of labour and self-examination.

Cricket had a long way to go before it became truly professional but it is there now all right. The game is played and lived more intensely than ever before.

But as I say, nothing stays the same. I wonder, has sport reached a peak of intensity and public interest, a high point from which only descent is possible?

Or will sport grow still more intense, still more "important", until it has reached some unimaginable, stratospheric high point of zealotry? I think the latter myself. Frightening thought.

All this Lilleshall stuff does sound frightfully Gooch, and even more frightfully football. On the other hand, neither of those is a bad thing to be

Indian players at work in South Africa. Fletcher has a good eye for a player's strength, and an even better eye for a weakness.

In short, rather a lot of money has been spent on this trip already. The tour is being taken as a serious business matter: not a lark and a jaunt and may the best team win. International cricket is now a matter of unrelieved seriousness.

CRICKET

Yadav advances claims for first Test cap as India win

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN EAST LONDON

INDIA received a timely boost before the final two Test matches when South Africa were beaten by five wickets in the seventh day-night international here on Saturday. A rousing partnership between Amre and Yadav brought victory by five wickets after India were left to make 204.

It was the touring team's most positive display in the past fortnight as it finally did justice to its talents. South Africa won the series 5-2 but for the first time had the initiative prised from their grasp at crucial moments.

This was emphasised as Amre and Yadav seized control in a stand of 74 in 11 overs. Both found the game with wristy, imprinted strokes and were never reluctant to lift the ball over the inner ring. They also ran between the wickets with a sharpness the Indians have not previously rivalled.

South Africa can fairly claim to be the best fielding side in the world but even this facet of their game wilted near the end. Amre won the man-of-

the-match award and Yadav, the reserve wicketkeeper, could have earned himself a first Test cap.

Wessels, the only batsman on either side to pass 300 runs, had no rival for the man-of-the-series award. He again held the early part of the South African innings together and Cronje provided a late thrust with 55 in 56 balls. Raju, the left-arm spinner, took three good wickets.

India's ultimate success will not blind them to the fact that their early batting again failed. Manjrekar and Tendulkar looked completely out of touch and they will be relieved that the one-day fixtures are now completed. Both need a long stay in the three-day match the Indians start here today with a South African Students XI.

South Africa were unfortunate that McMillan twisted an ankle early in his first spell. He gamely completed his ten overs straight off before retiring but it meant that Cronje had to bowl in the late stages which eased the pressure on

Amre and Yadav as they settled down. McMillan's ankle swelled badly overnight but it is still hoped he will be fit for the third Test match, which starts on Saturday in Port Elizabeth.

SOUTH AFRICA
 *K C Wessels c Tendulkar b Raju 57
 A C Hudson bow b Pringle 5
 P N Kirsten c Manjrekar b Raju 30
 P K Rhodes c Kumble b Raju 37
 J J Coetzee c Yadav b Raju 0
 W J Cronje c Manjrekar b Raju 55
 B M Morkel not out 12
 D J Richardson b Pringle 0
 C R Matthews not out 12
 Extras (R 3, nb 2, w 1) 12
 Total (8 wickets) 204

INDIA
 M Pringle c Donald 12
 V V Rao c Richardson b Matthews 21
 S R Tendulkar c Richardson b Matthews 21
 M A Azharuddin not out 24
 P K Kaul not out 24
 Kapil Dev bow b Matthews 17
 Y S Yadav not out 8
 Extras (R 4, nb 1, w 1) 6
 Total (8 wickets, 47.2 overs) 204

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-16, 2-38, 3-43, 4-40, 5-130.
BOWLING: Donald 10-0-49-1; De Villiers 8-25-29-0; McMillan 10-1-36-1; Matthews 10-2-44-2; Sharmar 8-0-34-0; Tendulkar 10-0-20-0; Raju 10-0-37-0; Wessels 8-0-35-0.

West Indies lose day of preparation

Bendigo, Australia: The West Indians face the prospect of being underprepared for the second Test match against Australia after almost 2.5cm of rain fell on the Queen Elizabeth Oval and wiped out the second day of their match against Victoria.

The captains have still not tossed, but the West Indian management met with the adjudicator, Robin Bailhache, and decided the match would remain a first-class game, rather than two one-day matches to be played today and tomorrow.

The second Test starts in Melbourne on Boxing Day. The first, in Brisbane from November 27 to December 1, ended in a draw. (Agencies)

Mujtaba stands firm to enhance his Test claims

Brisbane: The Pakistanis established an 82-run lead over Queensland on the second day of their four-day match here yesterday. The touring team reached 342 for four, with Asif Mujtaba, who was 84 not out at the close, Shahid Saeed, Inzamam-ul-Haq and Aamir Sohail in good form.

The dashing Inzamam, whose 83 contained 11 fours and a six, off Allan Border, was caught on the long-on fence by McDermott off spinner Steve Storey. Mujtaba, the diminutive left-hander, hit nine fours and stood firm against Queensland's three-pronged pace attack of McDermott, Rowell and Kasprowicz to enhance his claims for selection for the Test match against New Zealand next month. (Agencies)

QUEENSLAND: First innings
 M Hayden c Pringle b Rehman 70
 T Bailey c Rehman b Mujtaba 8
 J Goggin c Pringle b Rehman 58
 S Law c Pringle b Rehman 21
 A R Border c Sohail b Shahid 16
 B Wollmer bow b Shahid 22
 S Storey not out 29
 H A Healy b Mujtaba 19
 J J McDermott c Sohail b Mujtaba 11
 M Kasprowicz c Rehman b Aamir 2
 G Pringle b Mujtaba 4
 Extras (R 3, nb 1) 11
 Total 260

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-88, 2-127, 3-153, 4-178, 5-182, 6-201, 7-283, 8-303, 9-321.
BOWLING: Western Australia 19-4-5-2; Asif Mujtaba 10-4-30-0; Aamir-ul-Haq 10-1-36-1; Shahid Saeed 10-2-44-2; Inzamam-ul-Haq 10-0-20-0; Rehman 10-0-37-0; Wessels 8-0-35-0.



Number one: Girardelli turns on the way to his World Cup giant slalom win

Girardelli closes on Tomba

Kranjska Gora, Slovenia: Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, closed the gap on his Italian rival, Alberto Tomba, yesterday by winning a men's World Cup giant slalom here.

The Austrian-born skier, the second fastest after the first run, denied Lasse Kjus of Norway, his first World Cup victory to win in 1min 57.48sec.

Kjus, 21, skied the fastest second heat to improve from fifth to equal his previous best result of second place in the Mount Hutt giant slalom in New Zealand two seasons ago. His aggregate time of 1min 57.64sec was a mere 16 hundredths of a second slower than Girardelli, who is chasing his fifth overall World Cup title. Fredrik Nyberg, of Sweden, fourth after the first run, recovered to finish third in 1min 58.04sec.

Girardelli's second win this season — and the 38th of his career — pulled him to within five points of Tomba. The

Italian Olympic champion, yet to win this year, was thirteenth after the first run, but set the second-fastest time in the second heat to finish seventh.

However, typically, Tomba was still making headlines. He announced here that he has donated his prize-money from second place in a World Cup slalom race to the children of war-torn Bosnia, raising a few eyebrows in the process. Italian reporters, who clustered around the Olympic giant slalom champion, quoted him as first announcing: "I'm giving my money to help the children of Serbia." There were a few gasps of amazement before Tomba realised his mistake and corrected it. His cheque for second place in Saturday's race was for SwFr6,000 (£2,727).

While Tomba celebrated his 26th birthday on Saturday, Tomas Fogdøe, of Norway, denied him the pleasure of doing so with a slalom victory.

Tomba, aware he was expected to do better, was not happy afterwards: "I made a present to the others. My first run, as it often happens lately, was not good," he said.

Fogdøe, 22, did not need any gift from Tomba to capture his second season win after Val D'Isère. He displayed excellent control throughout, had the second best time in the first run and was third fastest in the second run to clock a winning aggregate of 1min 43.20sec.

RESULTS: Men's World Cup slalom (Saturday): 1. T Fogdøe (Nor), 1:43.20; 2. A Tomba (It), 1:43.48; 3. P Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.02; 4. S P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.02; 5. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 6. M. Fogdøe (Nor), 1:44.15; 7. U. Strandberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 8. H. Kjus (Nor), 1:44.15; 9. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 10. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 11. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 12. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 13. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 14. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 15. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 16. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 17. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 18. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 19. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 20. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 21. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 22. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 23. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 24. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 25. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 26. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 27. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 28. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 29. S. P. Nyberg (Swe), 1:44.15; 30. S. P. 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Cantona serves United a measure of seasonal cheer



Cantona: equalised

Chelsea 1
Manchester United 1

BY STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

SINCE defensive efficiency is supposed to be the foundation of potential champions, the credentials of two prime candidates were joyously paraded at a rain-swept Stamford Bridge on Saturday. Not even Scrooge would have dared to arrange an afternoon so miserably short of seasonal generosity.

In front of Chelsea's biggest crowd of the season, generating record receipts of

£385,000, the attacking adventure was so limited that the shots on target amounted to two. Both at least counted but Alex Ferguson, Manchester United's manager, suggested sarcastically "that will make for a merry Christmas".

Ian Porterfield was significantly less despondent. He is not alone in sensing that Chelsea, without a significant honour for two decades, could be about to emerge from their lean years. The necessary solid basis has been built and signs of progress are evident, on and off the pitch.

Last week their existence at Stamford Bridge, which has

for so long been uncertain, was secured for 20 years.

Porterfield recalled that United won 3-1 at Stamford Bridge last December, a victory which lifted them to the top of the table. "They were so much better than us then," he said, "but I don't think anyone could argue that today."

The improvement over the last 12 months may have been marked but their superiority on this occasion was marginal. Although Fieck operated on his own up front, Chelsea persisted in playing as though Harford was with him, instead of on the bench. The aerial approach was predictably futile.

The effervescent Wise, deployed in a central midfield role, caught the eye but the most telling contribution was made by Lee. Apart from putting Chelsea ahead, immediately after Harford's introduction midway through the second half, with a long-range drive which veered in off Bruce's thigh, he demonstrated a rare commodity.

The 23-year-old is an English central defender who is superbly comfortable on the ball. Unlike Sinclair, his partner and another student to have graduated through the productive youth policy, his distribution is invariably impeccable. It is no surprise to

learn that the idol of the former Under-21 international was Hoddle.

A back four marshalled by Lee and protected by Newton, yet another promising youngster, was penetrated only when Sharpe whipped in a menacing cross, and refreshed a memory. Before a series of injuries interrupted his career, he was being groomed to succeed Barnes in the England line-up.

Ferguson believes that the enforced lay-off has, in one sense, benefited Sharpe, who has had two hernia operations and viral meningitis.

"Watching the game has helped him," United's man-

ager said. "And he now has a knowledge that surprises me. He is a better player now than when he was capped, almost two years ago."

Sharpe acknowledges that whereas he used to think that a cross was authentic only if he had beaten the opposing full back, he is not "fussed about that now". The speed of his delivery, as much as his precision, allowed Phelan to nod the ball conveniently down for Cantona.

Sharpe, a mere half a dozen games into his comeback, states he is only "a goal away" from completing his recovery. "I am desperate to score," he said, expressing an emotion

shared by most of his colleagues.

Not Cantona, though. The French maverick, after demonstrating his full repertoire of decorative, but largely ineffective, flicks and backheels, hooked in the one chance that came his way. Ferguson is convinced that Cantona won the title for Leeds United last season and has invested £1 million in the hope that he might repeat the feat for his new employers.

CHelsea: K. Hoddle, G. Hail, F. Sinclair, A. Townsend, G. Lee, M. Donaghy, G. Sharpe, R. Fieck, I. Newton, G. Lee, S. Wise, E. Newton, D. Wise. MANCHESTER UNITED: P. Schmeichel, P. Parker, D. Brown, S. Bruce, M. Phelan (sub: A. Carruthers), G. Pallister, E. Cantona, P. Jones, B. McGee, M. Hughes, L. Sharpe. Referee: R. Lowe.

Revitalised Palace prove they are pushovers no more

Crystal Palace 1
Leeds United 0

BY PETER ROBINSON

A DRUBBING at Anfield is an unlikely platform for any revival but, for Crystal Palace, a 5-0 defeat by Liverpool seems to have been exactly what they needed. Since their mauling on Merseyside last month, Palace have run into the kind of form that is lifting them out of trouble at the foot of the Premier League.

Leeds United yesterday became the latest team to find that Palace are pushovers no more. A single Andy Thorn goal, a defensive display and a refusal to let Leeds have their own way at any stage combined to earn Palace their third league win in succession. A month ago, few would have believed such a transformation was possible.

It needed the recriminations that followed their debacle in Liverpool to effect the change. As Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, admitted, fingers were pointed and hard words spoken after that match.

"After the 9-0 defeat we had up there a while back, we tightened everything up and got better," he said. "I didn't think we could get beaten as emphatically again but we

did. Everybody realised what it meant to be in the Premier League and what it would mean if we lost it."

Thus, the Palace who tried to manfully entertain at the start of the season was buried to be replaced by the more miserly model that took the field yesterday. Home fixture it may have been but they lined up with the deepest of sweepers, and just a lone, lonely forward, and challenged Leeds to do something about it.

The league champions rarely looked capable of success in that department. Little wonder they have yet to win away from Elland Road this season. They looked sluggish and disinterested in the first half, more energetic but not much more effective in the second.

As is traditional at Selhurst Park these days, the goal came from a set-piece — a trip by Newsome on Rodger giving Palace a free kick on the edge of the area on the half hour. Rodger lifted it into the area and then met Whyte's clearance with a second cross, which Thomas won in the air to present Thorn with the chance to loop a header in off the underside of the bar.

It was no more than Palace deserved. With McGoldrick assured as the sweeper and Armstrong willing and ever-

dangerous on his own up front, they were, in a dour and conservative way, impressive. Leeds were not.

The champions did press forward a bit more after half-time but, against a packed defence, chances were few and far between. The promptings of Strachan and McAllister met no reward against a rearguard that stood rock-solid firm. The best of the occasional openings fell to Varadi in the dying minutes but he missed from close range.

The contrast in the managers' moods after the final whistle said everything about what had gone before. Coppell was bubbly, simply happy to accept a change in fortunes that has breathed life into his ailing season.

Howard Wilkinson, his opposite number, looked horribly haunted. He said he felt that Leeds deserved at least a point from the afternoon; his expression said something markedly different. You felt as if you were intruding on some private grief.

CRYSTAL PALACE: N. Marley, J. Humphrey, R. Shaw, G. Southgate (sub: R. Bowry), E. Young, A. Thorn, S. Osborn, G. Thomas, C. Armstrong, S. Rodger, E. McGoldrick.

LEEDS UNITED: J. Lukic, J. Newsome, A. Dorr, D. Fieck, G. Fairclough, C. Whyte (sub: S. Hodge), G. Strachan, Rod Wallace (sub: Varadi), L. Chapman, G. McAllister, G. Speed. Referee: A. Gunn.



Head start Armstrong, the Crystal Palace forward, displays unorthodox control as he outpaces Fairclough yesterday

Villa miss chance to press title claims

Manchester City 1
Aston Villa 1

BY IAN ROSS

ON THE evidence of a performance from Aston Villa at Maine Road on Saturday that lacked character and was often naive in a tactical sense, it would be difficult to concur that they are likely winners of the Premier League in its inaugural season. Manchester City could even count themselves unlikely not to have emerged with victory.

But for the benevolence of a linesman, and the resilience of McGrath and Teale, at the heart of a tiring, overworked defence, during the final minutes, Villa could have been comfortably defeated.

However, it is the manner in which his team squandered its chances that will concern Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager. With Saunders contributing little and Dalian Atkinson's normally prodigious input reduced by injury, the visitors were presented with a difficult task.

They must have been grateful, then, for the leniency they were allowed by the officials in the 35th minute, when Parker's splendid goal from 20 yards was allowed to stand despite the fact that Atkinson, during the build-up and execution, was offside.

That Villa failed to defend their advantage was surprising. City's play of dispatching the ball forward at great speed, and with little thought, in the hope of finding Quinn has now lost its effectiveness. Similarly, the threat posed by the pace and power of White is often diffused if defenders ensure that he is diverted down a blind alley.

For a team that places such great store by route one, City's forwards demanded an interminable amount of time on the occasions they succeeded in breaching Villa's defence. Filicraft, an emerging talent, was the exception, for he reacted instinctively to head in Brightwell's cross in the 58th minute to level the scores.

It was a fitting reward for City's aggressive posturing and a wholly predictable punishment for Villa's mystifying lack of adventure.

MANCHESTER CITY: A. Cotton, I. Brightwell, T. Foden, S. McGarvey, D. White, H. D. White, P. Reid (sub: M. Shearer), N. Quinn, G. Aston, R. Holders. ASTON VILLA: N. Spink, E. Bennett, S. Staunton, S. Teale, P. McGrath, K. Richardson, R. Houghton, G. Parker, D. Saunders, D. Atkinson (sub: M. Smith), D. Yorke. Referee: R. Bigger.

Wright shows his redeeming side

Arsenal 1
Middlesbrough 1

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

ROGUE one week, rescuer the next. At Highbury on Saturday, Ian Wright scored Arsenal's first Premier League goal in eight hours and salvaged their first point in five matches. It crowned a promising start to his public rehabilitation; not a hint of temper or tantrum.

Yet it was barely a true test. Middlesbrough's defenders played it firm and fair but allowed Wright to skip through at leisure, offering him five reasonable chances before he coolly accepted the sixth, nine minutes from time. Wait for the heat of another London derby, similar to that at White Hart Lane seven days earlier when Wright earned an FA misconduct charge for apparently punching David Howells, the Tottenham Hotspur midfielder player.

Wait for the wild tackle from behind and sly off-the-ball nudge, and wait for the response, before discovering whether Wright Mark II is any more calm and controlled. Judgment Day is not yet nigh. "There's no reason why Ian and I cannot sort it out together," George Graham, the Arsenal manager, said. "Terry Venables and Paul Gascoigne did it at Tottenham and Paul has gone on to become the country's darling."

Graham's powers of psy-

chology will be examined to the full over the next few months, not only on his England forward. Arsenal's title hopes decrease with every disjointed display, the draw on Saturday a depressing example of their muddled minds.

Middlesbrough retreated into a solid yet unadventurous shell — they failed to win a single corner — after taking a fortuitous 34th-minute lead. Hignett's trickery lured Linighan into lunging at the ball, which then spun off a startled Seaman into the net.

Flairs, 20, sparked amid the general gloom and did much to justify Graham's post-match verdict: "Mark is going to have a very big future in the game," he said. Smith, returning after six weeks off with ankle trouble, also added an extra option to the predictable Arsenal attack.

Too often, though, Middlesbrough were allowed time and space to hoof clear. Any side with championship ambitions would have figured out how to overcome such drudgery well before the 81st minute.

Campbell strode clear and stroked a precise shot past Peers. It struck the far post and rebounded to Wright, who tucked it away. He must keep his reactions equally sharp, and good natured, for a long time to come.

ARSENAL: D. Seaman, P. Lyden, N. Winterburn, D. Hillier, A. Linighan, A. Adams, M. Flait, I. Wright, A. Smith, P. Merson (sub: J. Jerrett), R. Parker (sub: K. Campbell). MIDDLESBROUGH: S. Peers, G. Fleming, J. Phillips, N. Mchugh, D. White, J. Pridock (sub: M. Prosser), J. Hignett, A. Peavey, P. Willson, G. Hignett (sub: W. Falcioni), T. Wright. Referee: S. Lodge.

Capable Coventry rediscover their touch

Coventry City 5
Liverpool 1

BY PETER BALL

ON FRIDAY, Peter Robins, the Coventry City chairman, told the club's annual meeting: "I believe this team is capable of beating anybody." On Saturday, his words were amply justified as Coventry City inflicted on Liverpool their heaviest domestic defeat since they lost 5-1 to Aston Villa in 1977.

This was not a bad way to end a run of 11 games without a win but hard experience warned Bobby Gould against getting over-excited. In his first spell as manager in 1983, Coventry beat Liverpool by four goals on the Saturday before Christmas. "At Easter, they beat us 5-0

at Anfield and, as I saw the other results coming up, I thought we'd be relegated," Gould recalled. Instead, as so often, Coventry won the last game of the season to survive.

Their recent plummet down the table revived the pattern of too many previous struggles but their second-half display on Saturday suggests they should have more in hand this time. Even without the exciting Ndlovu, the speed and breadth of some of their attacks was too much for Liverpool.

John Williams was in thrilling form on the right. Gallacher was a constant handful for Liverpool on the other wing and Quinn scored two breathtaking goals to take his tally to eight in five games since his arrival from Newcastle United. "He's round, he's fat,"

Gould, quoting the terrace chants, said. He then added his own second verse: "But he gets in the box and his finishing is pure quality."

By the time Quinn's stunning half-volley and precise header finished off two sweeping moves, which covered half the length of the field, Liverpool's tatty defence was in shreds.

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, was less concerned about his team's flaws than those he spotted in the performance of Kelvin Morton, the referee.

At 5.10pm, he told radio listeners that three decisions had determined the game. By 5.30pm, in a corridor outside the directors' box, his sense of grievance had strengthened. "We were in command for an hour but the referee made four strange decisions which

totally changed the whole course of the game," he said, adding doubts about the third goal to his earlier complaints about the first two and the dismissal of Redknapp for his second bookable offence.

Souness had half a point. Liverpool dominated the first half hour and showed they can still pass the ball better than most. But Jonathan Gould enjoyed his debut, justifying his father's decision to convert a slow full back into a goalkeeper on the strength of his catching prowess in cricket, and Coventry survived.

Then came Borrow's penalty and Souness's first complaint. The award for handball, as Redknapp felt, looked harsh but his push on Hurst preceded the ball's right thing if for the wrong reason. Souness was also up-

set about Borrow's second goal, after an indirect free kick, but television showed Wright's foot at the level of Quinn's throat and justified the decision.

The third goal was less clear cut. Gallacher looking offside as he streaked clear, but it is a risk that defences which dabble with offside have to face. If there was some sympathy for Redknapp, who was sent off for blocking Gallacher after having already been booked for encroachment at a free kick, it was muted.

Souness might be better advised addressing his complaints to some supposedly international defenders. COVENTRY CITY: J. Gould, B. Souness, P. Babb, P. Atkinson, K. Shearer, J. Williams, L. McGrath, L. Hunt, R. Rosario, M. Quinn, K. Gallacher. LIVERPOOL: M. Hopper, M. Marsh, R. Jones (sub: D. Hutchings), S. Barnesby, T. Reddy, M. Wright, P. Sowerby, J. Macdonald, I. Rush, J. Barnes, M. Walters. Referee: K. Morton.

Blackburn gain ground

WITH Aston Villa and Manchester United both content with one point, Blackburn Rovers moved back into the heart of the pack pursuing Norwich City at the top of the Premier League on Saturday, beating Sheffield United for only their second win in nine games (Peter Ball writes).

But if the result was welcome, Rovers' performance left a lot to be desired. Brian Deane gave their defence a lot of trouble before Kevin Moran headed home Wilcox's corner. The result puts Blackburn third, above Manchester United on goal difference. Neighbours Oldham ended

their disastrous run of three successive defeats in some style against Tottenham. Ian Olney scored a last minute winner after Sheringham had equalised Sharp's early goal.

Further Northern pleasure came at the grander venues of Goodison and Hillsborough. Everton came from behind to win their second successive home League match as Beardsley's penalty and Rideout's first home League goal defeated Southampton.

Mark Bright's beautifully crafted goal against Queens Park Rangers halted Sheffield Wednesday's disastrous slide down the division.

THE TIMES TABLE OF THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE																	
Wkly ch'ge	P	Pts	Goal diff	W (H-A)	D (H-A)	L (H-A)	For (H-A)	Agst (H-A)	Leading scorers	Offences S-O	Home attendance Avg 92-3	% chg 91-2	Recent form	Next match			
1 (0) Norwich	19	39	+2	12 (7-5)	3 (2-1)	4 (0-4)	34 (15-19)	32 (7-25)	Robins 11, Phillips 7	- 12	14,308	+3.3	dwnrrwl	Ipswich (h today)			
2 (+1) A Villa	20	35	+10	9 (5-4)	8 (3-5)	3 (2-1)	31 (17-14)	21 (11-10)	Atkinson 11, Saunders 7	- 10	26,861	+8.2	wdrrrrwl	Coventry (a Sat)			
3 (+2) Blackburn	20	34	+13	9 (7-2)	7 (1-6)	4 (2-2)	30 (19-11)	17 (7-10)	Shearer 14, Ripley 3	2 20	17,585	+32.7	ldrrrrwl	Leeds (h Sat)			
4 (-1) Man Utd	20	34	+8	9 (5-4)	7 (3-4)	4 (2-2)	22 (12-10)	14 (8-6)	Hughes 9, Cantona 7	- 17	32,797	-27.1	lwnrrrrwl	Sheff Wed (a Sat)			
5 (-1) Chelsea	20	33	+6	9 (4-5)	6 (4-2)	5 (2-3)	27 (12-15)	21 (9-12)	Harford 8	- 23	21,121	+13.0	lwnrrrrwl	Soton (h Sat)			
6 (+2) Arsenal	20	30	+2	9 (5-3)	3 (1-2)	8 (3-5)	23 (15-8)	21 (9-12)	Wright 11, Merson 3	- 26	25,482	-20.1	lwnrrrrwl	Ipswich (h Sat)			
7 (-1) Ipswich	19	29	+5	6 (4-2)	11 (6-5)	2 (0-2)	27 (16-11)	22 (10-12)	Three players on 5	1 17	17,589	+23.2	wdrrrrwl	Norwich (a today)			
8 (+2) Coventry	20	29	+3	7 (3-4)	8 (3-5)	5 (4-1)	30 (16-14)	27 (15-12)	Quinn 8	- 10	14,587	+5.0	ldrrrrwl	A Villa (h Sat)			
9 (-2) QPR	20	29	+3	8 (5-3)	5 (3-2)	7 (2-5)	26 (19-7)	23 (14-9)	Ferdinand 7, Penrice 5	- 19	15,412	+13.4	lwnrrrrwl	Nottm For (a Sat)			
10 (-1) Liverpool	20	28	+2	8 (7-1)	4 (1-3)	8 (2-6)	34 (22-11)	32 (11-21)	Walters 6	1 18	34,898	+0.3	lwnrrrrwl	Oldham (a Sat)			
11 (0) Man City	20	26	+4	7 (3-4)	5 (4-1)	8 (3-5)	27 (15-12)	23 (11-12)	White 9, Shearer 5	1 20	24,554	-11.3	lwnrrrrwl	Sheff Utd (h Sat)			
12 (0) Middlesbrough	20	26	+1	6 (5-1)	8 (4-4)	6 (1-6)	31 (19-12)	30 (10-20)	Wilkinson 8, Hendrie 5	- 18	17,716	+20.5	ldrrrrwl	Everton (a Sat)			
13 (0) Tottenham	20	25	-6	6 (4-2)	7 (4-3)	7 (2-5)	20 (13-7)	26 (10-16)	Sheringham 8, Durie 3	1 19	28,751	+3.6	wdrrrrwl	Norwich (a Sat)			
14 (0) Leeds	20	24	-2	6 (5-0)	6 (3-3)	8 (1-7)	32 (24-8)	34 (12-22)	Chapman 10, Speed 8	- 20	28,840	-2.8	lwnrrrrwl	Blackburn (a Sat)			
15 (+2) Sheff Wed	20	23	-3	5 (4-1)	8 (3-5)	7 (2-4)	22 (13-9)	25 (12-13)	Hirst/Bright 5	- 18	26,383	-10.7	ldrrrrwl	Man Utd (h Sat)			
16 (-1) Southmpton	20	23	-3	5 (3-2)	8 (5-3)	7 (2-5)	20 (12-8)	23 (10-13)	Le Tissier 6, Dowle 5	1 30	14,690	+4.4	ldrrrrwl	Chelsea (a Sat)			
17 (+1) Everton	20	22	-7	6 (3-3)	4 (3-1)	10 (4-6)	17 (9-8)	24 (12-12)	Beardsley 5, Johnston 3	- 8	22,136	-4.4	lwnrrrrwl	Middlesbrough (h Sat)			
18 (+2) Oldham	20	21	-6	5 (5-0)	6 (3-3)	9 (2-7)	33 (22-11)	39 (19-24)	Sharp 7, Olney 6	- 17	12,057	-20.1	lwnrrrrwl	Liverpool (h Sat)			
19 (+2) C Palace	20	21	-7	4 (2-2)	9 (5-4)	7 (3-4)	26 (13-13)	33 (13-20)	Armstrong 8	2 17	14,462	-17.9	ldrrrrrrwl	Wimbledon (h Sat)			
20 (-4) Sheff Utd	20	21	-8	5 (4-1)	6 (5-1)	9 (1-8)	18 (11-7)	26 (8-18)	Deane/Littlejohn 5	2 31	20,286	-8.2	ldrrrrwl	Man City (a Sat)			
21 (-2) Wimbledon	20	19	-5	4 (2-2)	7 (3-4)	9 (5-4)	26 (14-12)	31 (16-15)	Holdsworth 5	1 23	6,382	-7.6	ldrrrrwl	C Palace (a Sat)			
22 (0) Nottm For	20	15	-12	3 (2-1)	6 (2-4)	11 (6-5)	19 (5-13)	31 (11-20)	Bennister/Clough 5	- 9	20,103	-15.3	ldrrrrwl	QPR (h Sat)			

TRANSFERS: Patrik Andersson (Blackburn) from Malmö, £800,000; Mick Quinn (Coventry) from Newcastle, £250,000; Glen Livingstone (York) from Aston Villa, fee undisclosed. LOANS: Julian Watts (Sheff Wed) to Shrewsbury; Michael Williams (Sheff Wed) to Halifax; Scott Houghton (Tottenham) to Gillingham. □ Statistic

TRANSFERS: Patrik Andersson (Blackburn) from Malmö, £800,000; Mick Quinn (Coventry) from Newcastle, £250,000; Glen Livingstone (York) from Aston Villa, fee undisclosed. LOANS: Julian Watts (Sheffield Wed) to Shrewsbury; Michael Williams (Sheffield Wed) to Halifax; Scott Houghton (Tottenham) to Gillingham. Statistics refer to Premier League matches only.

Morley gets too close for comfort

Morley gets too close for comfort

BY KETH PIKE

West Ham finished in debt to Miklosko for his fine save from Smillie in injury time. Before that, though, for most of the time they had played Brentford off Griffin Park. Only the finishing touch was missing.

"After the nightmare of conceding five goals at Tranmere, we have now kept four clean sheets in a row, so there is no need for us to feel

Brentford could rejoice in the fact that West Ham's two clearest chances fell to Morley, whose finishing from close range does not match his shooting from distance. In the 51st minute, left unmarked when Dicks lobbed the ball towards goal, Morley could only

miss, a wild far-post volley from six yards after Breacker's right-wing cross.

They were the sort of chances Clive Allen can take in his sleep. Unfortunately for West Ham, on the two occasions their typically thoughtful, short-passing game put him free of Westley's shadow, Allen was some 20 yards from goal.

The first shot, after a de-

the unhappy recipients. They started the day in sixth place and cannot have been expecting much trouble from Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park. Nor did they find much until the second half, when Bolton scored five times, four in the last 25 minutes.

Stoke City maintained leadership of the division

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The result increased Stoke's lead at the top to six points. Rotherham United, the second-placed team, having drawn at home with Swansea City on Friday, Port Vale kept up the

chase of their neighbours, salvaging a point from their home match with Wigan Athletic, while West Bromwich yesterday moved into fifth with a 2-0 victory over Mansfield.

Kuhl guides Derby to another success

BY MARTIN SEARBY

Grimsby tried and succeeded in playing neat, first-time football with Rees making some adroit flicks and Gilbert penetrating Derby's right flank almost at will, but they lacked any potency in front of goal. A header from Rees and a thundering volley from Dobbin might have brought them an opening goal, but instead they were caught on the break as Kuhl struck a perceptive ball that split the home defence. Johnson ran on to it, rounded Sherwood and coolly shot home his seventh goal of the season.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466
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Lowe keeps Leicester on a high

Swindon, who had Calderwood sent off for two bookable offences, replied through Hazard and Maskell.

John Aldridge could be playing at Anfield again next season. The former Liverpool striker scored a hat-trick for Tranmere Rovers as they beat Wolverhampton Wanderers 3-0 at Prenton Park on Sunday. It left Tranmere second and marked the seventeenth treble of Aldridge's career.

Wendie Smith and Michael Gifford, who left the Ashton Gate pitch after a 1-0 defeat against Peterborough United to a barrage of boos. City are in the bottom half of the division and relations between Smith and Leslie Kew, his chairman, have become strained.

Third award for van Basten



Van Basten: record

MARCO van Basten, the AC Milan and Holland striker, won the European Footballer of the Year award for the third time yesterday. Van Basten, winner in 1988 and 1989, became only the third player to take the award three times after Johan Cruyff and Michel Platini. Van Basten, 28, beat Hristo Stoichkov and Dennis Bergkamp.

Van Basten, though, will be out of action for the next two or three months. He enters a clinic in St Moritz today for surgery on an ankle injury.

Steve Harrison has resigned as coach of St

Johnstone only 48 hours after his appointment following adverse publicity concerning his dismissal from a previous post. The former Watford and Millwall manager will return today to the coaching job he left at Crystal Palace to accept a position as No.2 to John McClelland, chief coach of St Johnstone.

Geoff Brown, the St Johnstone chairman, said yesterday that Harrison had been upset by newspaper references to a prank that cost him his job at Millwall and as assistant coach to the full England squad last year.

second, just after the interval, was out of Benstead's reach but also inches too high.

Dressed in a spotted, multi-coloured jersey which would put most Christmas lights to shame, Benstead, in his first league game for more than three months, also illuminated proceedings in more orthodox fashion, saving with his feet from Robson and at full stretch from Bishop. West Ham may yet rue his return.

BRENTFORD: G. Benstead, B. Southern, W. Manuel, K. Miller, S. Westley, S. Ranciffe, M. Bennett (sub. N. Smith), L. Luscombe (sub. K. Goodwin), J. Allen, G. Bennett, M. Gayle (sub. J. Hargrave), J. Allen, J. Miller, T. Brockmeyer, J. Davis, S. Potts, A. Martin, M. Allen, M. Robson (sub. A. Bunbury), S. Bishop, T. Mowley, C. James, K. Keen.

The result increased Stoke's lead at the top to six points. Rotherham United, the second-placed team, having drawn at home with Swansea City on Friday. Port Vale kept up the chase of their neighbours, salvaging a point from their home match with Wigan Athletic, while West Bromwich yesterday moved into fifth with a 2-0 victory over Mansfield.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

[illegible]

Defeat proves uplifting for York

BY KEITH BLACKMORE

YORK City lost for only the third time this season on Saturday but still returned to the top of the third division. They began the day in second place, level on points with Barnet, who had the weekend off, but any hopes of even a point had disappeared within 20 minutes of their match against Scarborough at Seamer Road.

By then, Darren Foreman had scored three times, making him leading scorer in the division with 17 goals, and York were playing for pride. Barnes pulled one goal back in the 68th minute and Canham another with six minutes left but Mooney had added a fourth for Scarborough in between.

York's two goals were, however, enough to take them to the top under the rule giving precedence to goals scored.

Most surprising result of the division came at Spotland, where Rochdale demolished fourth-placed Lincoln City 5-1. Andy Flounders scored three times in the first 49 minutes and Lincoln never recovered.

There was a surprise in the second division, too, with Bradford City being the unhappy recipients. They started the day in sixth place and cannot have been expecting much trouble from Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park. Nor did they find much until the second half, when Bolton scored five times, four in the last 25 minutes.

Stoke City maintained leadership of the division by beating **Hartlepool United** 2-1 at the Victoria Ground. Regis gave Stoke the lead, Honour equalised, then Gleghorn scored the winner in the *ninetieth minute*.

The result increased Stoke's lead at the top to six points. **Rotherham United**, the second-placed team, having drawn at home with **Swansea City** on Friday, **Port Vale** kept up the chase of their neighbours, salvaging a point from their home match with **Wigan Athletic**, while **West Bromwich** yesterday moved into fifth with a 2-0 victory over **Mansfield**.

end statistics

THE APPROACH of the festive season took its toll on attendances with both the Premier and Football Leagues down on their respective averages for last season. The goalscoring lull on offer, however, was of the highest quality as some matches, John Aldridge meeting a team of his former club, and Alan Hansen, Dairren Forsyth, of Scarborough, who leads the third division table, as on 20 goals, having put three past York.

GOALSCORERS

Premier League	League	FA	LC	Cup	Total
Shearer (Blackburn)	14	4	6	2	26
Wendie (Barnsley)	11	4	2	1	18
Chapman (Leeds)	10	2	2	1	15
Alkerson (A Villa)	11	2	2	1	16
Wendie (Barnsley)	10	2	2	1	15
Wright (Aston)	11	1	1	1	14
Richie (Norwich)	11	1	1	1	14
Wendie (Barnsley)	10	1	1	1	13
Keweenaw (Sheff Wed)	5	6	1	1	13
Wendie (Blackburn)	9	1	1	1	12
Logan (Mill Wall)	8	2	1	1	12
Hendrie (Sheff Wed)	8	2	1	1	12
Wendie (Blackburn)	8	2	1	1	12
Wendie (Sheff Wed)	6	3	1	1	11

on	Lge	FA	L
m (Porter)	18	-	-

Aldridge (Tennessee)	16	2	2	20	20
Biscuit (Barbados)	11	4	2	19	19
Macdon (Switzerland)	15	1	1	17	17
McKenney (New Jersey)	11	2	1	14	14
Mosley (West Virginia)	7	2	1	10	10
C Allen (West Ham)	12	2	2	14	14
Fulking (Wales)	7	3	1	11	11
Second division					
Francis (Scotland)	12	2	1	15	15
Sen (Sierra Leone)	10	2	2	14	14
Taylor (Ghana)	11	3	1	15	15
McCarthy (Brazil)	10	2	1	13	13
Wolke (Bolivia)	11	2	1	14	14
Swire (Kenya)	8	1	1	10	10
Gallagher (Ireland)	7	2	1	10	10
Third division					
Fournier (Scotland)	17	2	1	20	20
McKenney (New Jersey)	14	2	1	17	17
Bennett (Washington)	9	1	2	12	12
Clarke (Wales)	11	1	1	13	13
Naylor (Czech)	8	2	2	12	12

European cups and Great

OFFENCES		
FAIR PLAY		
Cowenry	Sent off	Booked
Acion Villa	-	11
Swanborough	-	12
Pearborough	-	14
North Forest	1	14
Almorch	-	14
Swanton	-	15
Bolton	-	15
Newcastle	1	14
FOUL PLAY		
Cambridge Utd	Sent off	Booked
Torquay	-	43
Colchester	-	43
Harford	-	44
Cheshamfield	-	39
Reading	-	40
Sheff Utd	-	38
Offences do not include Anglo-Saxon		

0

ATTENDANCES

Division	Weekly total	Wide spread	Wide change	91-2
Premier (10)	199,760	13,976	-16.3	-7.8
Div 1 (12)	115,382	9,615	-8.0	-6.6
Div 2 (12)	64,522	5,376	-0.1	-0.9
Div 3 (9)	29,698	2,961	+13.7	+3.9

Highest/lowest: Premier division, 34,464 (Cheltenham v Man Utd), 11,735 (Dorchester v Tottenham).
 First division: 34,464 (Cheltenham v Man Utd); 11,735 (Dorchester v Tottenham).
 3,629 (Southend v Mansfield), 3,179 (Barnsley v Luton).
 13,134 (West Brom v Mansfield), 3,179 (Barnsley v Luton).
 Second division: 7,362 (Scarborough v York), 1,760 (Halifax v Bury).

Compiled by Julian Thompson

FORECAST: Dividends will be very low with 15 score-draws and four no-score draws. No claims required

A real home from home

Benham House, which cost £30,000 to redesign and refurbish, is separate from the main school building and has its own bathing and toilet facilities. The boys have breakfast together before moving to the main school for the rest of the day where they have lessons and the remainder of their meals. They can



but he is patently happy and he has both the social advantages of boarding and the facilities of his school.

Neither Mrs Ayres nor her husband Tony had been to boarding schools. She says: "We thought that being a day boy at Chream would be the ideal solution and that maybe Matthew could board when he was ten or 11 but from day one he asked if he could board. We both miss him but see him every week and he comes home during the term."

"Matthew knows that his parents would have liked him to stay home a little longer." They thought I would

Mary Taylor, whose eight-year-old son Mostyn started at Cheam last September, speaks for many mothers when she says: "I was very anti boarding schools but my husband said he was incredibly happy at Cheam and for us it has been an enormous success. It is jolly hard if you have a happy home as we do. I simply adore my son and feel I am losing something I care about but seeing the immense pleasure he gets out of it makes up for it."

and scriptures, its history — is a cultural legacy which should be allowed to enrich a child's education.

When I taught in Deptford in the 1960s and early 1970s, it was part of our Christmas tradition to take the boys to the magnificent St Paul's parish church. It was probably the only time that many of the boys, representing a rich mixture of ethnic backgrounds, experienced this part of their

In a small way it probably counter-balances the commercialism of Christmas too. A few of our pupils read aloud some of the time-honoured poetry, so long an integral part of Christmas. All heard the glorious poetry of the Authorised Version: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

I urge other schools to do the same.

DIRECTIONS Week, the two fairs sponsored by *The Times* for graduates and school-leavers, will be expanded next year. With the addition of two weekdays and new features, the exhibitions are expected to attract an audience of more than 40,000.

The Schools' Fair, which will offer part career counselling and special pavilions for exhibitors, runs from June 30 to July 2. The London Graduate Recruitment Fair will follow from July 6 to 8. This year's fairs attracted a record attendance, despite the effects of recession.

The Schools' Fair will include a late-night opening session for readers of *The Times*. The main exhibition will take advance bookings for up to 120 school parties each day.

Both events are at the Business Design Centre, in Islington, north London. Further information on the Schools' Fair from Tricia Neill on 071-782 6872, and on the graduate fair from Vivien Charvonia on 071-383 2804.

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EMPTING TIMES

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OPERA: Handel at the Royal Opera; Tchaikovsky in Leeds; Mozart in Glasgow



Strong singers, given little help: Alcina (Vivonne Kenny, foreground left), Bradamante (Kathleen Kuhlmann) and Morgana (Judith Howarth)

Castaways on a featureless island

AN ENCHANTED island, a witch's sister called Morgana; a spot of disguise and cross-dressing; tempers and passions that run high: Handel's *Alcina* is just the thing to join *Hansel and Gretel* and *Die Fledermaus* as festive fare. Yet since Joan Sutherland put Handel's enchanted island on the map when she sang in the title role of Zeffirelli's 1962 production, *Alcina* has not returned to Covent Garden.

Two minutes into the first act, though, and one was transported, not to that distant world of sorcery and sensuality, but back 30 or 40 years to a time when it was considered acceptable penance to sit through three or four hours of successive vocal showpieces, fossilised within a static drama. Two

decades of inventive staging and searching recordings have shown us that it takes more than a punt of a magic wand and a spirited twirl of the baton to work Handel's magic.

John Fisher, making his Covent Garden conducting debut with this production, told Richard Morrison on these pages that his Handel would have a "full, meaty sound", since the opera was "all about clashing egos". Something of a musological non sequitur, what we heard was more like an endless string of indifferent sausages. With all-purpose spruceness and homogenised textures, the orchestra flattened out the wonderfully unpredictable melodic contours of Handel's writing and left a comfortable, cosy

accompaniment to one of his most passionate operas.

The eye had a better time of it. Within Thomas P. Lynch's single shallow set, dominated by one tree, a long hedge and an urn, Stephen Wadsworth seemed to have little idea as to what to do with his motley band of enchanters and enchanteresses. Some palpable focus on chivalry or pastoral or the magic arts— notions which, inspired Handel and could well still inspire us— would have been welcome.

A generally strong cast was beached on a dramatic desert island. The double-act of Vivonne Kenny and Ann Murray was the glory of both English National Opera's *Knox* and Covent Garden's own *Mitridate*. It was the

salvation of this *Alcina* too. Yet when Murray, as Alcina's lover, Ruggiero, sang an aria of confused passion, her clear, ringing vocal line, luring with ornament, her *da capo* repeat transcribed in its stillness, the orchestra expressed little wonder. And when Alcina (Kenny) realised she was betrayed and her magical powers were ebbing, the descending string chords slipped dutifully into place, when they should have pulsed with fear and grief.

Both Anthony Rolfe Johnson as Morgana and Judith Howarth as Bradamante, with their sensuously inflected singing, gave more a "momento de contento", and Kathleen Kuhlmann offered a powerfully projected, if shakily integrated, Bradamante.

HILARY FINCH

OPERA North's production of Tchaikovsky's last two works for the stage, the double bill of *Yolande and The Nutcracker*, was premiered at the Edinburgh Festival in August and presented for the first time in Leeds on Friday, 100 years to the day after the original premiere in St Petersburg.

Seen together—and as far as English is concerned this is the first opportunity to do so—the original run—the opera and ballet make a coherent statement about linked themes: the protective cocoon of childhood and the resultant traumas of growing up.

In *Yolande*, an opera of astonishing psychological sophistication, the heroine's unacknowledged blindness can be seen as either a symptom of her reluctance to grow up, or the result of her father's over-protectiveness. With the benefit of hindsight it can also be seen as a metaphor for the composer's

The zest of Tchaikovsky

sexual nature, and the miracle "cure" is effected by full acceptance of the condition, coming to terms with it, and willing its defeat out of concern for someone else—which I suppose is one definition of growing up. The Happy End, unique in Tchaikovsky's serious operas, is peculiarly affecting given that within a year of the premiere he was dead, in all probability by his own hand.

Martin Duncan's production, the boldly coloured—burial—decor by Anthony Ward and Robert Bryan's exquisitely sensitive lighting for once made *Yolande* seem the little masterpiece I have always thought it to be.

The masterly central duet in which the tenor hero (Kim Begley, in splendid voice) discovers that Yolande is blind, gently describes to her what she is missing and soothes her understandable panic was faultlessly directed and performed, and Duncan cleverly suggested the constricting formality of the court and its gradual unfreezing as the cure drew near.

Joan Rodgers's performance of the title role was a miracle in itself, sung on soprano tone at once beautifully limpid yet with a core of strength at its centre, and acted with infinitely touching directness. Gwynne Howell, as her father, was sadly voiceless and mimed

the role while Michael Druett sang powerfully from the side of the stage, and the fact that this scarcely affected the work's spell is tribute to the overall strength of Duncan's staging.

The Victorian orphanage setting for *The Nutcracker* in Duncan's and Martin Duncan's new scenario is very funny and very naughty as danced by Adventures in Motion Pictures, and only the most determined sourpuss could shyly suggest that there is more to the piece than emerged—sheer, blind terror for one. Both works were excellently conducted by David Lloyd-Jones, and the zest with which the English Northern Philharmonia attacked *Nutcracker*—with the inestimable advantage of not having had to play it day in day out, like ballet orchestras—was utterly infectious. A lovely evening.

RODNEY MILNES

COMMON man, or Papageno, wins most of the tricks in Scottish Opera's new *Flute*. And that perhaps is how it should be in Martin Duncan's sparky, irreverent production. He may litter the stage with masonic symbols; but his sympathies rarely lie with Sarastro and The Brotherhood, who are forced into a jaunty two-step when the music of enlightenment wells up from the pit at the close. Klemperer would not have been amused. Even the sun's rays, dispelling the powers of darkness, are not so much golden as canary yellow, perhaps underlining the fact that Duncan's true hero is plainly the birdcatcher.

Simon Keenleyside certainly turns in a virtuoso performance as Papageno, purveyor to the Queen of the Night, a multi-coloured fowl, which he catches adroitly as they whirl across the stage.

Birdcatcher takes wing

He has a proboscis of which Cyrano would be proud—more of a beak in fact. He has legs as long as the stork's and like that bird he has a tendency to stand on only one of them. His baritone comes as easily with Mozart's line as it does with Jeremy Sam's new translation. And, like the best Papagenos, Keenleyside has the gift of taking the audience into his confidence, using ripely open Yorkshire vowels in gathering their support.

The only problem is that he makes Tamino look a very dull dog. Paul Nilon is as yet a sturdy actor, although his tenor, when he relaxes it, has

promise. The best music by far is made in Act I by Papageno and Pamina, performed with considerable allure by Susannah Waters. Her pretty brown ringlets and assured stagecraft may lock her too quickly into too many soubrette roles. But her Pamina, while lacking a bit of gravity, shows that more serious things could come later.

Elsewhere caricature, vastly encouraged by Ken Lee's flashy costumes and cheeky sets, is the order of the day. The Queen of the Night bears a powerful resemblance to Hermione Gingold in cabaret, although Jennifer Rhye-Davies gets most of the notes. Her trio of

Ladies in midnight-blue jodhpurs, become a posse of rapacious Vogue editresses, 1920s vintage. Monostatos (Rupert Oliver Forbes) is a far black stallion, with genitals to match, but the Three Boys are all girls.

The first act swings along with high spirits and good humour. But after the interval Nicholas McGegan's control of the orchestra faltered, with some weak string playing. And Martin Duncan was far less happy staging Sarastro's trials of character than he had been earlier while Tamino was lost in the desert. *The Flute* has two acts and many faces. Only Papageno, our new hero, can afford to stand aside and hope that old fathers sometimes can conceal fine young birds such as Papageno (Ann Archibald).

JOHN HIGGINS

LONDON

THE NUTCRACKER: Tchaikovsky's perennial Christmas offering celebrates its 100th birthday this year, an event marked by English National Ballet in its annual London season. Ben Stevenson's workaday production may not be the most inspired around, but it does boast attractive designs, courtesy of Desmond Heeley.

Freshwater Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8839). Tonight Wed, 7.30pm, mats tomorrow, Thurs, 2.30pm.

HANSEL AND GRETEL: David Fourney's nostalgic but unimpassioned production is revived at English National Opera, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in a lively partnership with Elaine Robinson's lovely St William's House. Equally fine performances from Phyllis Carran and David Marshall. Lancelotti Friend conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 3161), 7.30pm.

THE CHOIR OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: The distinguished Oxford choir performs a traditional cathedral Christmas programme. St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (071-252 1061), 7.30pm.

CARTER USUK: The South London duo continue to offer an aggressive brand of power pop mixing buzz-box guitars with plenty of attitude.

Braden Academy, Stockwell Road, SW9 (071-338 2121), tonight, tomorrow, 6.45pm.

JOOLS HOLLAND: The irrepressible performer plays boogie-woogie with his Big Band.

Just Café, La Parlay, NW1 (071-284 4359), tonight, tomorrow, 7pm.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

JUMPING RED LIGHTS: Peter Sinker plays an upmarket deal in this show, tempting the audience with strange logic and 18 musical numbers.

Godalming, Godalming Street, Leamington Spa, CV32 9JH (071-422 5581). Opera tonight, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm (closed Christmas Eve-Dec 27 and New Year's Day).

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM: Hot sales band Cezanne, headed by Birmingham singer Zara, takes us to the Christmas markets. Riverside, Broad Street (021-643 4525), tonight-Thurs, and Dec 28-31, 8pm.

LEAMINGTON: To mark the ballet's centenary, Opera Month is presenting a new version of Tchaikovsky's classic *The Nutcracker* by the popular contemporary dance choreographer Matthew Bourne and featuring the dancers of the Adventures in Motion Pictures company. Presented as part of a double bill with the Tchaikovsky opera *Yolande*, the Nutcracker's original partner at the St Petersburg premiere on December 18, 1892.

Grand Theatre, 46 New Bridge Street (0532 465951/40071). Tonight, tomorrow, 7pm.

LIVERPOOL: Topical at the moment, with the publication of Keith Bell's authoritative catalogue raisonné of

Stanley Spencer, the assemblage of Spencer's work is a model for the emphasis on the economically religious (until Jan 7). Also by the Museum, a rather ordinary gathering of Abstract Expressionist American painting by Rothko, Pollock and Barnett Newman, valuable chiefly for as many value in a British context (until Jan 10); and National Order, which shows Liverpool some of the Tate's recent sculpture collection, including work by Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth as well as the homegrown Tony Cragg and Anthony Gormley (until Jan 24).

Tate Gallery, Albert Dock (051-703 3223). Tues-Sun, 10am-6pm (closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day).

OXFORD: Music at Oxford's Christmas festival draws to an impressive close with a concert in the splendid yet intimate setting of the Sheldonian, by the over-60 choir and orchestra of The Sheldon under Harry Christophers. Bach's Christmas Oratorio (parts 1-3) and the Mendelssohn Concerto No 3 make up the programme.

Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street (0865 791222), 8pm.

OXFORD: If attending the age of 80 is the qualification for a media retrospective, Ed Jacklin has just barely arrived in the right class. The retrospective, which runs from New Year, 1985-1992, is confined to his right powerful and disturbing work of the last seven years spent in New York City. Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street (0865 728808). Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm (Thurs to 8pm), midday-6pm, until January 10, 1993 (closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Dec 27, 28 and New Year's Day).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seeds at all prices

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NEW RELEASES

CHAPLIN (12): A skilled impersonator by Robert Downey Jr., but Richard Attenborough's biopic never penetrates far inside the man or his career.

Odeon Leicester Square (0426 918583).

COOL WORLD (12): Fantastic, outlandish music mixed with over-the-top animation and Ralph Bakshi's signature style.

MGM Pathé (071-570 2336).

THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL (U): Surprisingly successful blend of Dickens' story with puppetry. Starring Michael Caine as Scrooge, Kermit as Bob Cratchit.

Director: Brian Henson.

Curzon Parkway (071-357 7034).

THE PRINCESS AND THE GOBLIN (U): Blatantly animated edition of George MacDonald's Victorian classic about a sheltered princess combating goblins.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol \otimes) on release across the country

APOLLO VICTORIA (R): *Starlight Express* is a musical extravaganza, but it's not the one you want to see. *Starlight Express* is a musical extravaganza, but it's not the one you want to see.

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ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

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Revolution with a light touch

ARCHITECTURE: The spectacular designs of Jean Nouvel are now on show in London. Marcus Binney reports

Rarely since the late 18th-century heyday of Boulée and Ledoux has a Frenchman produced a revolutionary architecture with so direct an appeal to the imagination as Jean Nouvel. Here are visionary projects as extraordinary as Boulée's great spherical monument to Isaac Newton.

Nouvel made his name with the Institut du Monde Arabe, the first, and most acclaimed, of President Mitterrand's *grands projets*. Now London's ICA gallery brings the story up to date with an exhibition of nine completed buildings and 11 more current projects.

Nouvel's absorbing passion is glass. "It allows us to use light itself as a material," he enthuses. Lightness, transparency, back-lighting, reflections and the night-time view are key elements of his latest work.

He is fascinated with the concept of "dematerialisation", buildings which seem to dissolve before the eye, and the use of layering to create a sense of depth. He rejects one of the canons of modern design. "I can no longer base a project on its structural expression."

Not surprisingly, Nouvel's exhibition is all light and movement (cinema is a passion). Slides are projected to fill the walls "so you can walk around the buildings," he says, and video monitors present individual buildings.

His most eye-catching project so far is the Tour Sans Fin — the endless tower. This is the European counterpart of Sir Norman Foster's Millennium Tower proposed for Tokyo. Designed to stand close to the grand arch at La Défense in Paris, it "disappears" into both ground and sky. The rough granite

base emerges as from a crater, giving way to polished granite, then to grey stone, then to glass, screen printed with silver motifs that grow steadily more mirror-like as it arrives at cloud level.

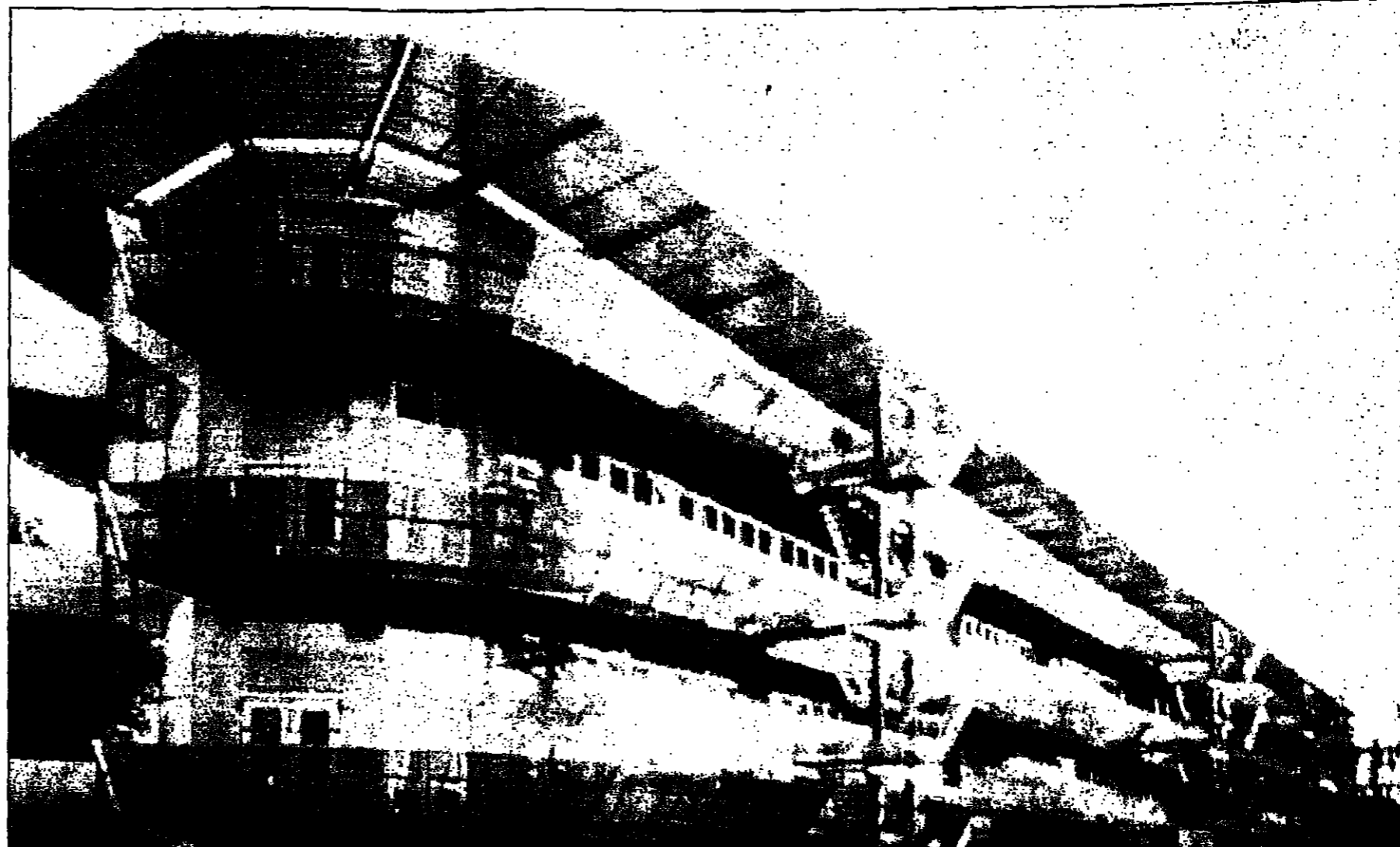
For sheer originality in the use of simple geometric forms his proposals for the Galeries Lafayette in Berlin are a sensation. The plans of the upper floors look like slices of gruyère, punctured by different sized circular holes. But a cross section reveals these are part of a small forest of hollow cones, 17 in all, some upright, some inverted.

Verigo is guaranteed when you look out into the main atrium and find the walls tapering away beneath you all the way to the ground. Here a second funnel-like cone plunges vortex fashion through the basement. Other cones are like fissures, bringing streams of daylight deep into the building.

In Frankfurt the brief provided by the Victoria Insurance Company was simple: "We want the most beautiful building in the world."

Nouvel has offered the company the most ethereal, an "ice lost" which would gleam at night, brilliantly lit from within, clear here, opaque there. He takes the all-glass curtain wall facade to a new extreme. It is supported from behind not by steel beams or masts but buttresses which are themselves of glass. To heighten the sense of ethereality, there stands, imprisoned within the glass front, the facade of an older building Nouvel has been required to preserve.

For Cologne he has designed a luminous blue "media park" tower made up of illuminated sections that stack up like a music centre. One facade is suggestive of a giant



Nemausus, a striking public housing project by Jean Nouvel in Nîmes: "it looks like two Mississippi paddle-steamers, in corrugated aluminium and steel mesh"

television screen, another of a tape cassette holder. Brand names like Siemens and Bosch are everywhere. To invite entry, Nouvel has a red fissure up the full height of the building, suggesting a world of bright lights and music within.

Visionary yes, but will they be built? Happily Nouvel can reply with four major projects which will be completed in the next 16 months. First is an advertising agency on the Ile Saint-Germain in Paris. Nouvel explains: "Modern office blocks have become stereotyped. Paris is full of empty offices like London. We have to reconsider their whole design." He slaps his hip pocket. "Now you can have a telephone here, you can dispense with a desk, sit in a comfortable chair or just walk around."

So CLM-BBDO, as it is known, is like a giant riverboat, round at

the stern, set in its own small lake. There are continuous balconies, like deck walks. You can slide open the floor-to-ceiling glass windows and work *en plein air*. Goodbye to the air-conditioned office prisons of the 1980s. Even the roof flaps over the atrium open and close like clams.

Next May will see the opening of the Opéra de Lyon. "My most important project since the Monde Arabe, and as controversial as Pei's Louvre Pyramid," Nouvel adds. He was obliged to keep the handsome 19th-century exterior but signals revolutionary change by a huge Crystal Palace-style hooped glass roof doubling the building's height.

The auditorium has been increased from 900 to 1,300 seats and reconstructed in six tiers of balconies. "It's not the usual horse-

shoe. The spectators will be much, much closer to the action," says Nouvel. "Each box will have its own electric candle so the audience themselves will create the architecture, *l'ordre de la salle*."

By the end of 1993 his new congress centre for the city of Tours will be ready, next to the splendid 19th-century railway station by Laloux. "It's very contextual, yet very modern," he says. The front is intriguingly anthropomorphic: a space invader with a cloth cap, supported by giant pillars.

Fourth will be the Fondation Cartier on the Boulevard Raspail in Paris, scheduled for completion in April 1994. "A *château brillant*. A game on immateriality," says Nouvel. The facade is extended outwards and upwards from the building as the screen to catch reflections of trees and sky.

For Cartier he has also just

completed an elegant, ultra-modern factory in Switzerland. It is Mies-like in its sleek lines and use of darkened glass but given an exotic character by its strongly over-sailing roof.

Striking, too, is his Nemausus, a public housing project in Nîmes. It looks like two Mississippi paddle-steamers, this time in corrugated aluminium and steel mesh garb. Though to English eyes the exterior access walkways send out alarm signals, Nouvel insists they are appropriate to a Mediterranean climate. Come dusk they turn a vivid nightclub crimson. And the door knobs are all converted fire alarm buttons. For Nouvel "a nice apartment is a large apartment".

By using industrial materials he has increased the size of the average flat by 50 per cent, spread across two and sometimes three storeys.

For the publishing house of Dumont-Schauberg he has proposed a new form of *architecture parlante*, a glass facade to be screen printed with press headlines and political rubrics from the year in which it is built. What the occupants will feel about looking through a backwards alphabet remains to be seen.

But Nouvel is not such a revolutionary that he is intent on sweeping away the past. He condemns the disasters of the 1960s. He fought against the demolition of the great Parisian markets at Les Halles. Today, he says, the city has to be developed "in small touches with more modesty but more ambition to achieve depth".

● The exhibition runs until February 14 at the ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 0473), but is closed from December 24 to January 3.

THEATRE: Martin Hoyle welcomes a familiar circus, with a new ringmaster, back into the West End

Roll up for an act with the ring of confidence

This American musical, devoted none too seriously to lauding the showman who famously averred that there is a sucker born every minute, has been a frequent visitor to London over the past decade. Mark Bramble's book whisks through Phineas T. Barnum's life, personal and professional, sketching in just enough to provide a dramatic thread, and the songs by Cy Coleman (music) and Michael Stewart (lyrics) are cheerfully bouncy in a showbizzy way. Offering the chance of spectacle, colour and genuine circus acts — juggling, acrobats, the high wire

Barnum
Dominion

— the show is ideal family entertainment, especially when performed as engagingly as this.

Its title role also provides a whopping opportunity for a singing, dancing, clowning, rope-walking leading man. The unexpected excellence of English actors in both America (Jim Dale) and Britain (Michael Crawford) has almost led to *Barnum* being adopted. Now the first national tour arrives in London

with Paul Nicholas in the main part.

Crawford hurried himself at the audience and conquered through vitality and sheer old-fashioned personality. Nicholas is lower key. He bustles on with the slightly parodied self-importance of a younger Bruce Forsyth. His Barnum is an ingratiating sitcom adventurer rather than the visionary who elevated what he called "humbug" to an art form.

Less dazzling than Crawford, he still manages to walk a high wire and slide down a rope slung above the audience from the gallery to the stage. This Barnum's tricks are edged with anxiety in case they fail — not that they do, but the first night had its quota of off-stage bangs, guns that refused to shoot, and puffs of smoke that anticipated their cue.

The plot follows Barnum's career, from exhibiting a slave as George Washington's 160-year-old nurse, buying London Zoo's jumbo, entering politics, to final partnership with Bailey to form the first three-ring circus. His emotional life is anchored in a happy marriage with the practical Charity (Carol Duffy), disturbed only by an apparent fling with Jenny Lind, "the Swedish nightingale" who receives him in the favourite casualwear of international



Paul Nicholas as Barnum: an ingratiating sitcom performer rather than a visionary of the circus

divas, fights and ostrich plumes. Clara Miller makes her into a sort of early Victorian Jeanette MacDonald given to anachronistically chromatic waltz songs and refrains like "The game of love amuses, unless of course one loses". The original New York pro-

duction by Joe Layton was directed by Buddy Schwab who died this month. Enthusiastically put over by a young cast trained by circus experts Terry and Danuta Parsons, the show speeds by and is an opportune arrival for the holiday season.

TELEVISION REVIEW: An evocative literary adaptation

Child of the Caribbean

Post-colonial settings for British television films have been fashionable for years, but *The Hummingbird Tree* (last night, BBC 1) was the first to be shot entirely in Trinidad. Based on Ian McDonald's 1969 novel, it told the story of Alan, a privileged white boy aged 12, and his friendship with two Indian servants, 11-year-old Jallin and her elder brother Kaiser, during Trinidad's first general election in 1946. A combination of sensitive direction, good dialogue and several fine performances resulted in a memorable fable about the loss of innocence.

The three children (Tom Beasley as Alan, Desha Penco as Jallin and Sunil Y Ramjitsingh as Kaiser) were utterly convincing, especially when Alan found himself torn between his loyalty to his friends, symbolising Trinidad itself, and his obligations to English values. Jallin's acquiescence in Alan's inarticulate, boyish adoration culminates in her banishment — and that of Kaiser — from the paradise by the sea, after the two of them bathe naked together and are found by Alan's father Stephen (an impressive Patrick Bergin).

The background to this prepubescent idyll was provided by Trinidad's political coming of age. The underlying tension is religious as much as racial. The relationship be-

tween Alan and his parents, the tolerant but blind Stephen and the stubbornly Anglo-centric Marjorie (Susan Woodbridge superb), is a microcosm of the division within the white community. It is Alan, not his father, who notices Marjorie's adultery with the white candidate of "experience and integrity" in the election (Clive Wood). The boy grasps the hollowness of their way of life, but he is unable to bridge the cultural gulf which separates him from the villagers.

Jallin and Kaiser keep test-

ing Alan's friendship: they want to be reassured that he does not think them "vulgar". When both Indians are sacked after the bathing incident, Alan seeks approval by telling his father: "I was getting not to like them anyway." But in the poignant epilogue, six years later, Alan meets Jallin again; and both feel a pang of missed opportunity: "You was white and I was a brown girl." Pascal was right: the heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of.

DANIEL JOHNSON

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Weekends away in the new year

THIS week's offers include a chance to meet one of the country's leading producers, a Chocobolic Theatre weekend and a special family matinee.

In the new year we'll be offering weekend breaks for members to visit theatres around the country, and enjoy some of the other attractions in the area.

To book, call the Theatre Club's own booking service on 071-413 1412, open 24 hours a day, or call the number given during box office hours. Members may book two tickets for any event.

THE TIMES
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An Ideal Husband, Globe Theatre, Tues 19 Jan. Tickets are £26 which includes a pre-theatre buffet and a chance to meet the producer, Bill Kenwright. Tel 071-240 1690.

BIRMINGHAM
The Wizard of Oz, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, A Chocobolic Theatre Weekend, Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Staying at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, members will be given chocolate goodies before going to see *The Wizard of Oz*.

a cup of hot chocolate before bed and a trip to Cadbury World the next day. Tickets for the weekend are £62.75 for adults, and £26.75 for children under 14. Children under 5, staying in their parents' room are just £4.50. Tel 021-236 2302 for details.

Save money on Christmas matinees by booking through the club on 071-413 1412.

Travels With My Aunt, Wyndham's Theatre, Dec 23, 29, 3pm. £18.50 tickets for £13.50.

Blood Brothers, Phoenix Theatre, Dec 23, 29, 3pm. £23 tickets for £18.

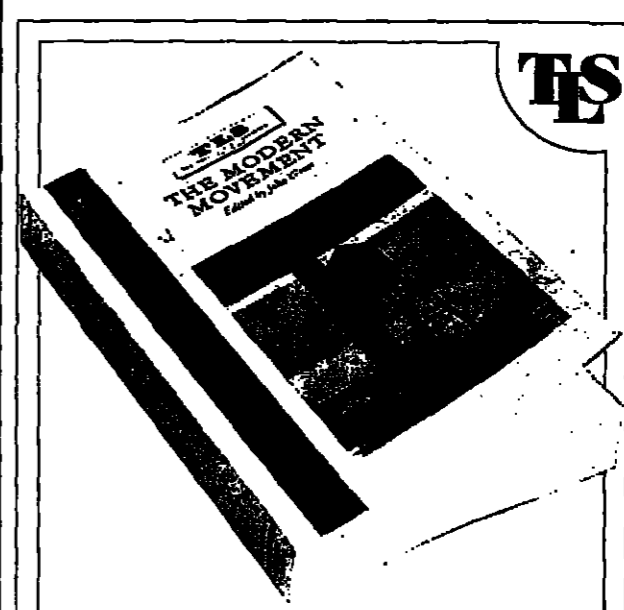
Dancing at Lughnasa, Garrick Theatre, Dec 23, 24, 3pm. £19 tickets for £14.

Murder by Misadventure, Whitehall Theatre, Dec 23, 29, 2, 30pm. £17.50 tickets for £12.50.

Today is the last posting day for Christmas but it's not too late to order Theatre Gift Tokens. As a Theatre Club member you'll receive one free £1 token for every £10 spent. Tel 071-240 8800 (not the club booking line).

American Jewish comedian Jackie Mason has just announced dates at the Dominion Theatre, March 22, 23 and 24. Tickets are available through the club booking line 071-413 1412.

If you haven't yet joined The Theatre Club, don't delay. These offers are exclusive for members. To join The Theatre Club send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to: The Theatre Club, PO Box 3, Owen Road, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 3HH. For more information telephone 071-387 9673.



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Italian
expose
Scottish
flaws

Severn Trent attacked for bias towards investors

In another attack by regulators on the privatised industries, Ofwat has attacked Severn Trent for favouring shareholders above customers in setting price levels

By GEORGE STEVILL

SEVERN Trent, the Midlands water and sewerage group, has been attacked by a customer service committee of Ofwat, the water industry regulator, for erring in favour of shareholders and too little on the side of the customer.

Clive Wilkinson, chairman of the central customer service committee of Ofwat, wrote to John Bellak, the chairman of Severn Trent: "The CSC will be urging the Director General of Water Services, in his forthcoming review of prices from 1995, to be as tough as possible in setting the new price levels, because, in my members' opinion, the experience since privatisation is that Severn Trent err too much in favour of their shareholders, and too little on the side of the customer."

Striking an appropriate balance between the interests of shareholders and consumers has been at the very heart of the intense debate over privatised industries, including gas, electricity, telecommunications and water.

Last week, the gas and electricity industries came under attack from their regulators. Ofwat, which regulates electricity, said more competition was needed to limit the market power of National Power and PowerGen, Britain's two biggest generators. In a submission to the monopolies commission, Ofwat called for the British Gas pipeline system to be hived off.

Mr Wilkinson wrote: "To see dividend increases being given at more than twice the rate of inflation by a monopoly utility at a time of serious recession, is unacceptable."

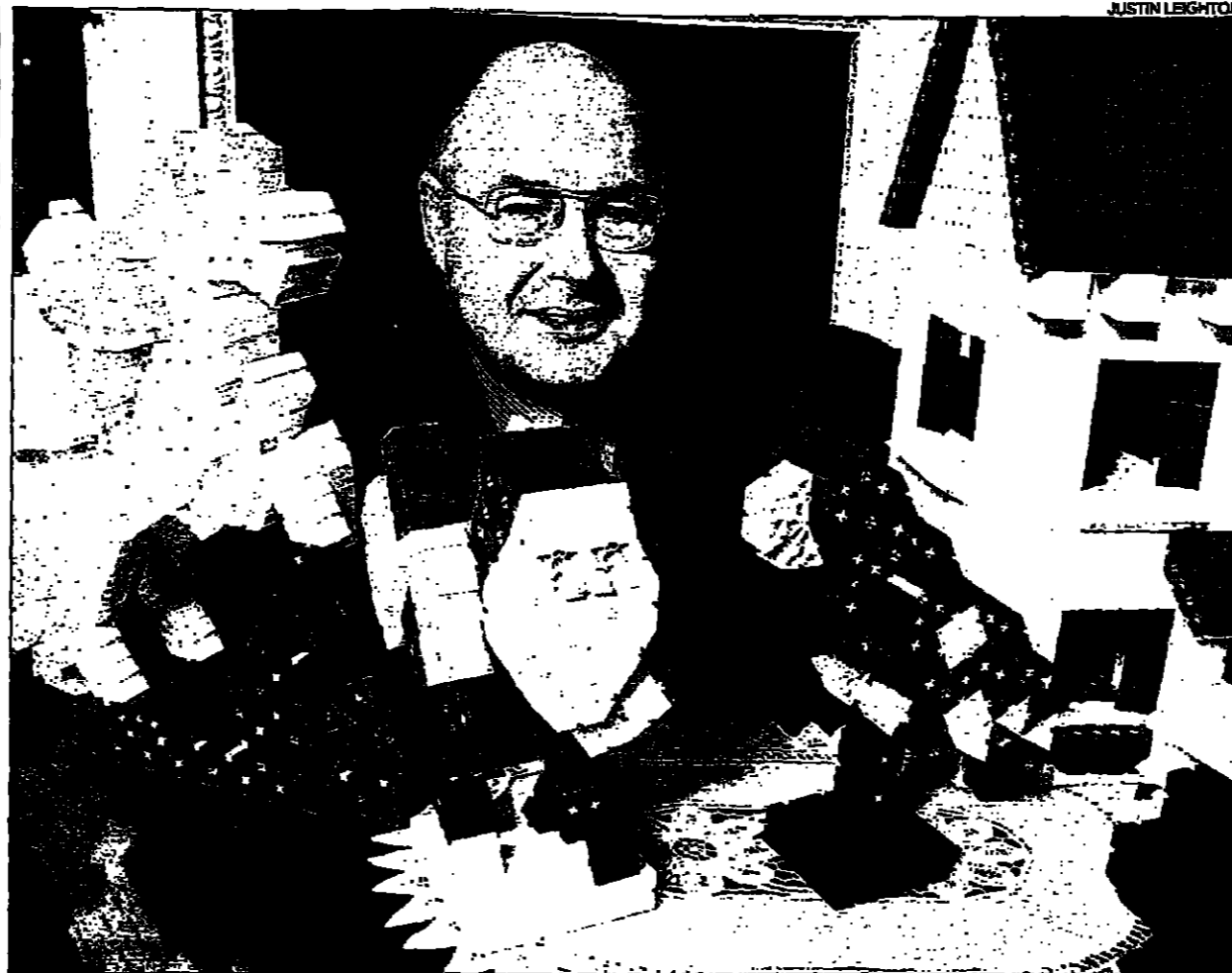
He added: "We... accept

that Severn Trent have carried out a massive investment programme in an effective and efficient way. As someone pointed out 'if you start off in a business with your debts written off, a massive green dowry, and captive customers, it is pretty difficult to fail'."

Severn Trent recently announced a 3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £141 million in the six months to end September and raised the interim dividend by 9.4 per cent to 7p out of earnings up 2.7 per cent to 37.5p a share. In the year to March, Severn managed a 6.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £265 million. The total dividend rose 10 per cent to 19.3p out of earnings up 5.7 per cent to 68.2p a share.

The attack drew an immediate response from Mr Bellak, who has written to Mr Wilkinson: "As to dividends, it was always understood that this would be at a rate of proper real growth above inflation and you will understand that they relate to an earlier year. It is the shareholders who in the longer term finance the tremendous investments required and... these are running at double the level of profit and more."

He also stated: "I am sure you recognise that the financial position prior to privatisation was wholly accidental as a consequence of different governments' earlier policies and it is the current financial structure that is relevant. In this context, I must again point out that the company's investment in the last financial year was £585 million in the water business and this represented substantially more than double its profit."



Toytown builder: John Mott, Mottik inventor and chairman, is raising half a million to take on Lego

Isosceles to appoint Simons

By COLIN NARBROUGH

ISOSCELES, the financially troubled buyout vehicle for the Gateway supermarket chain, is to appoint David Simons, the Storehouse finance director, as chief executive, to encourage its creditors to approve a restructuring of the group's £1.3 billion debt.

Under the restructuring, creditors would provide a cash injection of £30 million and Isosceles' debt repayments would be frozen for six months. The creditors are expected to finalise their stance tomorrow.

Mr Simons, 45, will take over from Alistair Mitchell-Innes, whose departure was announced on December 9. Mr Mitchell-Innes took the job in September 1991.

Isosceles has asked Midland, its agent bank, and 37 other creditor banks, for an emergency standstill on its debt by Christmas to avoid a credit crunch in the new year, when a £20 million interest bill falls due. The rescheduling request was submitted on Thursday at a meeting of the

group and its advisers at Hill Samuel, the merchant bank called in to restructure borrowings. The third attempt at debt restructuring comes only weeks after shareholders approved the second restructuring. Wasserstein Perella, the American investment bank, which owns 30 per cent of Isosceles' equity, was earlier understood to be reluctant about a further restructuring, but is now believed to be more agreeable to a debt for equity swap that would dilute its holding.

Lego rival builds up capital

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

MOTTIK, Britain's answer to Lego, thrusts itself into the financial world today with a share sale offer to raise about half a million pounds. Mottik is made by Mottik International Group, named after its chairman, John Mott, who invented the Lego-like toy construction system. A Mottik set consists of cubes and triangular wedges as basic building bricks that are linked together with wheel and axle accessories.

The toy will be officially launched at the Ears Court Toy Fair next month, and orders have already been received from Hamley's toy store, who will supply British Airways as part of the airline's "Skyfliers Pack".

Griffiths & Lamb, the Birmingham stockbroker, will today offer 2 million shares in the company at 30p each to raise a net £490,000.

Latin American growers to fight EC banana tariff

THE banana producing nations of Latin America have agreed on a common strategy to fight, possibly with retaliatory action, the European Community's decision to impose a tariff on bananas that could cut imports from Latin America by a quarter.

Juan Manuel Santos, the Colombian foreign trade minister, said that the Latin American producer countries might even pull out of the world trade talks. "It could be difficult for Latin American countries to keep negotiating in the Uruguay round, when one of our principle commercial partners does not respect our fundamental principles," he said. Latin America exports about 2.5 million tonnes of bananas to the Community each year, but the tariff regime to come into force next year will be punitive above 2 million tonnes. Community farm ministers ended a long rift between Germany and the former colonial powers by deciding to continue to protect banana producers in former colonies and overseas territories in the Caribbean and Africa, whose fruit is more expensive than the Latin American product.

Warning for Clinton

THE International Chamber of Commerce has condemned Bill Clinton's proposals to alter the way Washington taxes multinational firms. It said the proposed regulations to determine transfer prices among affiliates of multinationals were in direct contradiction to generally accepted principles laid down by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Mr Clinton has suggested he could raise as much as \$45 billion over four years by enforcing tax laws against foreign companies more vigorously. The ICC said: "If implemented, these rules will undermine international consensus on transfer pricing methodology with the serious risk of increased double taxation and distortions to cross-border trade and investment."

Non-executives flourish

THE influence of the independent director has grown significantly over the past two years, particularly on remuneration and audit committees, according to a survey by 3i, the venture capital group. Today, almost all remuneration and audit committees, which exercise a strong supervisory function over the board of a company, are chaired by independent directors, and almost half are comprised solely of them. Two years ago, most such committees had equal numbers of executive and non-executive directors, 3i says. However, while more than 80 per cent of independent directors think they should have unrestricted access to company information, a recent poll by 3i found only a third of finance directors shared that view.

RJB to seek listing

RJB Mining, one of the largest opencast contractors to British Coal, is to seek a stock market listing next year. RJB operates 11 opencast mines in the UK, and one deep mine at Bleankop, Cumbria. It is also involved in private mining under licence and has interests in estimated coal reserves on sites not currently mined of about 2 million tonnes. Operating profits in 1991 were £15 million on turnover of £76 million. Richard Budge, chief executive, said the flotation would "provide us with additional funding flexibility as we look for further expansion opportunities". The company was created in its current form in February this year through a management buyout, which valued the company at £106.5 million.

Lamont must stop playing Scrooge

BRITAIN'S recession — the longest and deepest suffered by any of the G7 countries — may finally be ending. A return to slow economic growth should not prevent base rates from falling further and remaining low for longer than markets currently discount. However, the rally in long gilts appears to be over. Low growth and inflation in 1993 will lead to a steeper yield curve rather than lower long yields.

The government is now focused on restarting the economy. Discontent on the Tory backbenches will resurface if the new policy framework fails to deliver an upswing. Despite higher import prices, underlying inflation should edge lower next year, allowing economic expansion to remain the priority. Disinflationary pressures in the UK are strong. Wage growth is at a 25-year low, and spare capacity is at its highest for more than 40 years. Unemployment in 1993 and 1994 will be at its highest level since the 1930s.

Recovery is also needed to avert a fiscal crisis. Even with a modest upturn in the economy, rising government spending will send the fiscal deficit past 8 per cent of GDP next year and higher still in the mid-1990s. That is unsustainable. High deficits and high real gilt yields will cause the government's debt interest costs to balloon. Moreover, if the recession continues in

1993, dwindling tax revenues will catapult the deficit to 10 per cent of GDP. The last time that occurred, in the mid-1970s, the pound collapsed and the IMF had to bail the government out.

Recent declines in both interest rates and the pound should allow the economy to grow by nearly 1 per cent in 1993. That is thin gruel, but debt levels and real interest rates remain too high to allow anything stronger. Personal and corporate debts have yet to fall significantly, property prices remain weak, and mortgage commitments continue to plummet.

Base rates of 7 per cent appear low by the standards of recent decades, but they are still not low enough. In the 1960s, the last time growth rates in money, credit, wages, and manufactured goods prices were as low as now, a 7 per cent base rate was considered penal.

Mr Lamont is playing Scrooge on base rates. However, the government cannot afford, financially or politically, to let recovery fail. In the months ahead, as the upturn is seen to be slow and patchy, the authorities will cut rates again to coax the economy along. A tax-raising Budget may also need a sweetener of lower base rates. There should be one or even two base rate

cuts, of half a point each, in the next quarter, with further cuts, to 5 per cent, in the course of 1993.

As in America, interest rates will not stop falling until economic growth is re-established and the threat of a double-dip is past. That is still some way off.

Sterling is significantly undervalued against the mark and the French franc. Next year, the British economy should outpace its continental neighbours, while German interest rates will fall further than British ones.

Provided the UK economy returns to growth, there could be upward pressure on sterling against other European currencies during the next year, presenting a benign

external background for rate cuts. Despite low inflation in 1993, long gilt yields will remain stranded at about 9 per cent, because the exploding budget deficit casts doubt on Britain's ability to keep inflation low over the long term. Unless the government is prepared to raise taxes sharply or axe spending, the only way to avert a fiscal crisis is to keep interest rates moving at above-trend rates, thereby cutting unemployment and raising capacity utilisation.

Past experience suggests that a return to above-trend growth would eventually fuel inflation. Next year's low inflation rate is unlikely to be around for many more Christmas masses to come.

MICHAEL SAUNDERS
Salomon Brothers
International

BRITISH FUNDS									
Stock	Price	1m	1m	1m	1m	1m	1m	1m	1m
Outstanding		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
(£m)									
SHORTS (under 5 years)									
500 Fund 6/9/92	99	100%	0.02	6.47	5.77	Trust 9/9/2002	100%	-	4.97
500 Fund 6/9/93	100	100%	0.02	6.47	5.83	Trust 10/9/2002	100%	-	4.97
1,000 Fund 6/9/93	101	100%	0.02	6.47	5.93	Trust 3/4/1999-04	80%	-	5.11
1,000 Fund 12/9/93	102	100%	0.02	6.47	6.00	2012	2012	-	5.11
1,000 Fund 12/9/94	103	100%	0.02	6.47	6.07	1,620	Trust 11/9/2003-04	117%	-
1,000 Fund 12/9/95	104	100%	0.02	6.47	6.14	3,912	Cash 9/9/95	107	-
1,000 Fund 12/9/96	105	100%	0.02	6.47	6.21	2,200	Trust 12/9/2003-04	120%	-
1,000 Fund 12/9/97	106	100%	0.02	6.47	6.28				
1,000 Fund 12/9/98	107	100%	0.02	6.47	6.35				
1,000 Fund 12/9/99	108	100%	0.02	6.47	6.42				
1,000 Fund 12/9/00	109	100%	0.02	6.47	6.49				
1,000 Fund 12/9/01	110	100%	0.02	6.47	6.56				
1,000 Fund 12/9/02	111	100%	0.02	6.47	6.63				
1,000 Fund 12/9/03	112	100%	0.02	6.47	6.70				
1,000 Fund 12/9/04	113	100%	0.02	6.47	6.77				
1,000 Fund 12/9/05	114	100%	0.02	6.47	6.84				
1,000 Fund 12/9/06	115	100%	0.02	6.47	6.91				
1,000 Fund 12/9/07	116	100%	0.02	6.47	6.98				
1,000 Fund 12/9/08	117	100%	0.02	6.47	7.05				
1,000 Fund 12/9/09	118	100%	0.02	6.47	7.12				
1,000 Fund 12/9/10	119	100%	0.02	6.47	7.19				
1,000 Fund 12/9/11	120	100%	0.02	6.47	7.26				
1,000 Fund 12/9/12	121	100%	0.02	6.47	7.33				
1,000 Fund 12/9/13	122	100%	0.02	6.47	7.40				
1,000 Fund 12/9/14	123	100%	0.02	6.47	7.47				
1,000 Fund 12/9/15	124	100%	0.02	6.47	7.54				
1,000 Fund 12/9/16	125	100%	0.02	6.47	7.61				
1,000 Fund 12/9/17	126	100%	0.02	6.47	7.68				
1,000 Fund 12/9/18	127	100%	0.02	6.47	7.75				
1,000 Fund 12/9/19	128	100%	0.02	6.47	7.82				
1,000 Fund 12/9/20	129	100%	0.02	6.47	7.89				
1,000 Fund 12/9/21	130	100%	0.02	6.47	7.96				
1,000 Fund 12/9/22	131	100%	0.02	6.47	8.03				
1,000 Fund 12/9/23	132	100%	0.02	6.47	8.10				
1,000 Fund 12/9/24	133	100%	0.02	6.47	8.17				
1,000 Fund 12/9/25	134	100%	0.02	6.47	8.24				
1,000 Fund 12/9/26	135	100%	0.02	6.47	8.31				
1,000 Fund 12/9/27	136	100%	0.02	6.47	8.38				
1,000 Fund 12/9/28	137	100%	0.02	6.47	8.45				
1,000 Fund 12/9/29	138	100%	0.02	6.47	8.52				
1,000 Fund 12/9/30	139	100%	0.02	6.47	8.59				
1,000 Fund 12/9/31	140	100%	0.02	6.47	8.66				
1,000 Fund 12/9/32	141	100%	0.02	6.47	8.73				
1,000 Fund 12/9/33	142	100%	0.02	6.47	8.80				
1,000 Fund 12/9/34	143	100%	0.02	6.47	8.87				
1,000 Fund 12/9/35	144	100%	0.02	6.47	8.94				
1,000 Fund 12/9/36	145	100%	0.02	6.47	9.01				
1,000 Fund 12/9/37	146	100%	0.02	6.47	9.08				
1,000 Fund 12/9/38	147	100%	0.02	6.47	9.15				
1,000 Fund 12/9/39	148	100%	0.02	6.47	9.22				
1,000 Fund 12/9/40	149	100%	0.02	6.47	9.29				
1,000 Fund 12/9/41	150	100%	0.02	6.47	9.36				
1,000 Fund 12/9/42	151	100%	0.02	6.47	9.43				
1,000 Fund 12/9/43	152	100%	0.02	6.47	9.50				
1,000 Fund 12/9/44	153	100%	0.02	6.47	9.57				
1,000 Fund 12/9/45	154	100%	0.02	6.47	9.64				
1,000 Fund 12/9/46	155	100%	0.02	6.47	9.71				
1,000 Fund 12/9/47	156	100%	0.02	6.47	9.78				
1,000 Fund 12/9/48	157	100%	0.02	6.47	9.85				
1,000 Fund 12/9/49	158	100%	0.02	6.47	9.92				
1,000 Fund 12/9/50	159	100%	0.02	6.47	9.99				
1,000 Fund 12/9/51	160	100%	0.02	6.47	10.06				
1,000 Fund 12/9/52	161	100%	0.02	6.47	10.13				
1,000 Fund 12/9/53	162	100%	0.02	6.47	10.20				
1,000 Fund 12/9/54	163	100%	0.02	6.47	10.27				
1,000 Fund 12/9/55	164	100%	0.02	6.47	10.34				
1,000 Fund 12/9/56	165	100%	0.02	6.47	10.41				
1,000 Fund 12/9/57	166	100%	0.02	6.47	10.48				
1,000 Fund 12/9/58	167	100%	0.02	6.47	10.55				
1,000 Fund 12/9/59	168	100%	0.02	6.47	10.62				
1,000 Fund 12/9/60	169	100%	0.02	6.47	10.69				
1,000 Fund 12/9/61	170	100%	0.02	6.47	10.76				
1,000 Fund 12/9/62	171	100%	0.02	6.47	10.83				
1,000 Fund 12/9/63	172	100%	0.02	6.47	10.90				
1,000 Fund 12/9/64	173	100%	0.02	6.47	10.97				
1,000 Fund 12/9/65	174	100%	0.02	6.47	11.04				
1,000 Fund 12/9/66	175	100%	0.02	6.47	11.11				
1,000 Fund 12/9/67	176	100%	0.02	6.47	11.18				
1,000 Fund 12/9/68	177	100%	0.02	6.47	11.25				
1,000 Fund 12/9/69	178	100%	0.02	6.47	11.32				
1,000 Fund 12/9/70	179	100%	0.02	6.47	11.39				
1,000 Fund 12/9/71	180	100%	0.02	6.47	11.46				
1,000 Fund 12/9/72	181	100%	0.02	6.47	11.53				
1,000 Fund 12/9/73	182	100%	0.02	6.47	11.60				
1,000 Fund 12/9/74	183	100%	0.02	6.47	11.67				
1,000 Fund 12/9/75	184	100%	0.02	6.47	11.74				
1,000 Fund 12/9/76	185	100%	0.02	6.47	11.81				
1,000 Fund 12/9/77	186	100%	0.02	6.47	11.88				
1,000 Fund 12/9/78	187	100%	0.02	6.47	11.95				
1,000 Fund 12/9/79	188	100%	0.02	6.47	12.02				
1,000 Fund 12/9/80	189	100%	0.02	6.47	12.09				
1,000 Fund 12/9/81	190	100%	0.02	6.47	12.16				
1,000 Fund 12/9/82	191	100%	0.02	6.47	12.23				
1,000 Fund 12/9/83	192	100%	0.02	6.47	12.30				
1,000 Fund 12/9/84	193	100%	0.02	6.47	12.37				
1,000 Fund 12/9/85	194	100%	0.02	6.47	12.44				
1,000 Fund 12/9/86	195	100%	0.02	6.47	12.51				
1,000 Fund 12/9/87	196	100%	0.02	6.47	12.58				
1,000 Fund 12/9/88	197	100%	0.02	6.47	12.65				
1,000 Fund 12/9/89	198	100%	0.02	6.47	12.72				
1,000 Fund 12/9/90	199	100%	0.02	6.47	12.79				
1,000 Fund 12/9/91	200	100%	0.02	6.47	12.86				
1,000 Fund 12/9/92	201	100%	0.02	6.47	12.93				
1,000 Fund 12/9/93	202	100%	0.02	6.47	13.00				
1,000 Fund 12/9/94	203	100%	0.02	6.47	13.07				
1,000 Fund 12/9/95	204	100%	0.02	6.47	13.14				
1,000 Fund 12/9/96	205	100%	0.02	6.47	13.21				
1,000 Fund 12/9/97	206	100%	0.02	6.47	13.28				
1,000 Fund 12/9/98	207	100%	0.02	6.47	13.35				
1,000 Fund 12/9/99	208	100%	0.02	6.47	13.42				
1,000 Fund 12/9/00	209	100%	0.02	6.47	13.49				
1,000 Fund 12/9/01	210	100%	0.02	6.47	13.56				
1,000 Fund 12/9/02	211	100%	0.02	6.47	13.63				
1,000 Fund 12/9/03	212	100%	0.02	6.47	13.70				
1,000 Fund 12/9/04	213	100%	0.02	6.47	13.77				
1,000 Fund 12/9/05	214	100%	0.02	6.47	13.84				
1,000 Fund 12/9/06	215	100%	0.02	6.47	13.91				
1,000 Fund 12/9/07	216	100%	0.02	6.47	13.98				
1,000 Fund 12/9/08	217	100%	0.02	6.47	14.05				
1,000 Fund 12/9/09	218	100%	0.02	6.47	14.12				
1,000 Fund 12/9/10	219	100%	0.02	6.47	14.19				
1,000 Fund 12/9/11	220	100%	0.02	6.47	14.26				
1,000 Fund 12/9/12	221	100%	0.02	6.47	14.33				
1,000 Fund 12/9/13	222	100%	0.02	6.47	14.40				
1,000 Fund 12/9/14	223	100%	0.02	6.47	14.47				
1,000 Fund 12/9/15	224	100%	0.02	6.47	14.54				
1,000 Fund 12/9/16	225	100%	0.02	6.47	14.61				
1,000 Fund 12/9/17	226	100%	0.02	6.47	14.68				
1,000 Fund 12/9/18	227	100%	0.02	6.47	14.75				
1,000 Fund 12/9/19	228	100%	0.02	6.47	14.82				
1,000 Fund 12/9/20	229	100%	0.02	6.47	14.89				
1,000 Fund 12/9/21	230	100%	0.02	6.47	14.96				
1,000 Fund 12/9/22	231	100%	0.02	6.47	15.03				
1,000 Fund 12/9/23	232	100%	0.02	6.47	15.10				
1,000 Fund 12/9/24	233	100%	0.02	6.47	15.17				
1,000 Fund 12/9/25	234	100%	0.02	6.47	15.24				
1,000 Fund 12/9/26	235	100%	0.02	6.47	15.31				
1,000 Fund 12/9/27	236	100%	0.02	6.47	15.38				
1,000 Fund 12/9/28	237	100%	0.02	6.47	15.45				
1,000 Fund 12/9/29	238	100%	0.02	6.47	15.52				
1,000 Fund 12/9/30	239	100%	0.02	6.47	15.59				
1,000 Fund 12/9/31	240	100%	0.02	6.47	15.66				
1,000 Fund 12/9/32	241	100%	0.02	6.47	15.73				
1,000 Fund 12/9/33	242	100%	0.02	6.47	15.80				
1,000 Fund 12/9/34	243	100%	0.02	6.47	15.87				
1,000 Fund 12/9/35	244	100%	0.02	6.					

Now is the time to draw battle lines for next war on inflation

**THE "SHELL"
TRANSPORT AND
TRADING COMPANY,
p.l.c.**

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Registrar will be struck on Thursday, 14th January, 1993 for the preparation of the half-yearly dividend payable on the SECOND PREFERENCE SHARES for the six months ending 31st January, 1993. The dividend will be paid on 1st February, 1993.

For Transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Company, Worthing, West Sussex, BN9 6DA, no later than 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 14th January, 1993.

South Coast
London, SE1 7NA
21st December 1992

By Order of the Board
J.A. Cantile
Secretary

BBC1

- 6.00** *Cartoons* (41082)
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Nicholas Witchell and Tanya Silem present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (40749334)
9.05 *Blood and Honey*. The start of an imaginative look at the story of Christmas, written and told in five daily parts by Tony Robinson (4431570) **9.20** *The New Yogi Berra Show* (r) (5138880) **9.30** *Come Midnight Monday*. Episode one of a seven-part Australian drama (r) (72599)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (3447808) **10.05** *Playdays*. For the very young (s) (9048841) **10.30** *Snoopy's Reunion* (r) (31112)
11.00 News (r) (8738262) **11.40** *Cartoon*. Double Bill (1268518)
11.55 *Film: When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth* (1970) starring Victoria Vetri and Robin Hawdon. Prehistoric fantasy adventure directed by Val Guest (5016334) **12.40** *Cartoon*. Double Bill (1268518)
12.50 *Good Morning* *Advent Calendar* (s) (55458247) **12.55** *Regional News* and weather (5545518)
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. (Coefax) Weather (29570) **1.30** *Neighbours*. (Coefax) (2188997)
1.50 *Film: Carry On... Follow that Camel* (1967) starring Jim Dale, Phil Silvers, Anita Harris and Peter Butterworth. Comic account of the adventures of a wrongly-disgraced English aristocrat who joins the Foreign Legion. Directed by Gerald Thomas (4883063) **2.30** *Steven Spielberg's Amazing Stories*. A cynical sheriff receives more than he bargained for when he arrests Santa for breaking and entering. (Coefax) (s) (377792)
3.45 *Henry's Cat*. Cartoon (r) (6808808) **3.50** *Wildburnh*. This last in the wildlife series looks at movement in the animal kingdom (r) (s) (6855044) **4.05** *Gordon T. Gopher* (r) (7956337) **4.15** *Jimbo and the Jet Set* (r) (8738262) **4.20** *Wait on Earth*. The penultimate episode of the 12-part science fiction comedy thriller (s) (2444353)
4.35 *Peter Pan and the Pirates*. (Coefax) (s) (5565172)
4.55 *Newsround* (3051995) **5.05** *Blue Peter*. (Coefax) (s) (5501522)
5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Coefax) (s) (680996). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Coefax) Weather (824)
6.30 *Regional News* *Magazines* (976). Northern Ireland: Neighbours **6.55** *A Hard Road*
7.00 *Eldorado*. (Coefax) (s) (8247)
7.30 *Wildlife on Camera*. David Attenborough takes a look at the extremes of life in the animal world (r). (Coefax) (830)
8.00 *Television's Greatest Christmas Hits*. Philo Schofield introduces clips from the 20 most watched Christmas programmes. (Coefax) (s) (9063)
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. (Coefax) Regional news and weather (4826)



A nightmare... ruse: Sam Neill and Nicole Kidman (9.30pm)

- 9.30** *Film: Dead Calm* (1989) starring Sam Neill and Nicole Kidman. Groping Australian thriller about a couple who take a yachting holiday to recover from the death of their young son and rescue man from a lifeboat who turns out to be a psychotic killer. Directed by Philip Noyce (31063)
11.00 *Film: The Year with Billy Norman* who selects his favourites and introduces a report from the United States on the state of the film industry over there (s) (512624). Wales: Face Off 11.35 *Film: The Year*
11.45 *Film: UHF* (1989) starring Weird Al Yankovic. An anarchic comedy parodying American film and television about a young man whose innovative ways of running a television station won by his uncle in a card game earn him success and the unwelcome attentions of a jealous rival. Directed by Jay Levey (901062). Wales 12.20-1.55 *Film: UHF*
1.20am *Weather* (3328716). Northern Ireland: 1.25-1.30 *A Hard Road*

BBC2

- 8.00** *Breakfast News* (5896044)
8.15 *Film: The Falcon's Adventure* (1948, b/w) starring Tom Conway and Midge Mervin. The debonair detective foils an abduction and becomes a prime suspect in a murder case. The first in a Falcon series, directed by William Berke (387334)
9.15 *Film: Mr and Mrs Smith* (1941, b/w) starring Carole Lombard and Robert Montgomery. The Hitchcock season continues with this unlikely screwball comedy about a couple who discover that their marriage is invalid after the state boundaries are changed (555444)
10.45 *Animation Now*. A behind-the-scenes look at the world of stop-frame film-making (r) (2370470) **11.00** *Mr Bean* (r) (2063063)
11.15 *Priddy the Hedgehog*. John and Simon King's film about a female hedgehog living in the Mendips (r). (Coefax) (5808886)
12.10 *Nikolaev Plays Shostakovich*. The first of a new series in which the Russian pianist Tatiana Nikolaeva plays the complete cycle of the 24 Preludes and Fugues (Op 87) by Dmitri Shostakovich. She begins with numbers one to five (s) (8716599)
12.55 *The Lambeth Boys*. A two-part follow-up to a documentary made 30 years ago about a group of teenagers who were members of one of London's biggest youth clubs. This is the story of the group's reunion (3072247)
1.55 *Christmas Carols: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* sung by the choir at Ely Cathedral (r) (8033073)
2.00 *News* and weather (5924405) followed by *The Warlords*. A biography of General MacArthur (5900805) **2.30** *Regional News* and weather (537). Northern Ireland: The Victorian Kitchen Garden
3.00 *News* (Coefax) and weather (7425402) followed by *Songs of Praise* from St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle (r). (Coefax) (9882957) **3.50** *News*, regional news and weather (6883315)
4.00 *International Golf*. The Canon shoot out over nine holes at Warrington between eight top players including Nick Faldo, Ian Woosnam and Sandy Lyle (2044)
5.00 *International Showjumping* from Olympia (s) (9426709)
5.50 *Life with Eliza* starring John Sessions. (Coefax) (126402)
6.00 *The Addams Family* (b/w). (Coefax) (45044)
6.25 *DEF II* begins with *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*. Affluent west Coasters enjoy (58711) **6.50** *Dance Energy* Video. Party. Among the guests are: Stanislav and U. Unlimited (s) (557452). Followed by *Advent Calendar*. (Coefax)
7.30 *Film: The Dark Crystal* (1982). An accomplished fantasy adventure from the stable of Muppeteer creator Jim Henson about a young man on a mission to save the world from evil forces. Directed by Jim Henson and Frank Oz (38988)
9.00 *I'm Alright*. Jacques. Pete McCarthy takes a wry look at what it means to be British at a time when 'jederalism' is the buzz word (8228)



Miss Pym (Patricia Routledge) meets Jilly Cooper (9.30pm)

- 9.30** *Bookmark: Miss Pym's Day Out*. A charming reconstruction of the novelist Barbara Pym's trip to London in November 1977 to attend the Booker Prize ceremony. Starring Patricia Routledge (976225) **10.20** *Manipulation*. Daniel Greaves' short that won the 1992 Oscar for animation (r) (111266)
10.30 *Newsnight* with Sue Cameron (181518)
11.15 *Film: Breathless* (1960) starring Jean-Paul Belmondo. An unrepentant remake of Jean-Luc Godard's 1959 thriller about a petty thief who kills a policeman and seeks the help of a friend (Valeria Kaprisky) to assist his escape. Directed by Jim McBride. (Coefax) (305539)
12.50am *Weather* (3327321)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode
 The numbers next to each video programme title are VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder directly with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0899 121204 (calls charged at 45p per minute plus 35p of overheads) or write to VideoPlus, Account Unit 5 Ivory House, Plamondon Way, London SW11 3TN. VideoPlus+ (TM), Ruscode (TM) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Genstar Marketing Ltd.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00** *TV-am* (539795)
9.25 *The New Adventures of He-Man*. Armoured action adventure (5542150) **9.50** *Thames News* (3063518)
9.55 *Film: The Strongest Man in the World* (1975) starring Kurt Russell and Joe Flynn. A Walt Disney comedy about two students discovering a formula which, when mixed with breakfast cereal, produces super-strength. Directed by Vincent McEveety (7853402)
11.40 *Stuntmasters*. A compilation of stunts created for television and cinema (4781599)
12.30 *Lunchtime News*. (Oracle) Weather (1537570) **12.50** *Thames News* (11243570)
1.00 *Home and Away*. Australian family drama. (Oracle) (54266)
1.30 *Film: Baby - Secret of the Lost Legend* (1985) starring William Katt, Sean Young and Patrick McGowan. A sci-fi adventure about a single-minded scientist intent on being the first to discover a living dinosaur. Directed by B.W.L. Norton (5833808)
3.10 *ITN News* headlines (743808) **3.15** *Thames News* headlines (742178) **3.20** *Film: The Night Before Christmas*. A play about the night before Christmas. Directed by B.W.L. Norton (5833808)
4.00 *Film: Journey Back to Oz* (1971). An animated sequel to the classic fantasy *The Wizard of Oz*. With the voices of Liza Minnelli, Mickey Rooney, Danny Thomas, Milton Berle and Ethel Merman. Directed by Hal Sutherland (5953570)
5.40 *Early Evening News*. (Oracle) Weather (539686)
6.00 *Home and Away*. (Oracle) (792)
6.30 *Thames News* (804)
7.00 *Wish You Were Here*. ... 7 Judith Chalmers is in the ancient Polish city of Cracow. Anna Walker goes along in Wyoming and Nick Owen visits the Holy Land (Oracle) (s) (3515)
7.30 *Constitutional*. (Coefax) (228)
8.00 *Survival*. (Oracle) (228)
8.10 *CHOICE: What with the BBC's *Rebirth of the Russian Bear* and this *Nature of Russia* series from Anglia, it is a good thing that Russia is such a big place. Otherwise it might be difficult to move for British camera crews. Tonight we are in eastern Siberia, some 5,000 miles east of Moscow and the source of much excellent footage. For a start we can feast our eyes on moose and reindeer from one of the many active volcanoes on the Kamchatka peninsula. We can watch eagles swooping down to catch salmon and brown bears on the same quest, though much more clumsily. There is a Russian about saving the forests as the Japanese move into the Russian logging industry. But the video is also a bit of a tape, the world's largest wildcat, strikingly photographed at night with a camera able to "see" in total darkness. (Oracle) (4131)
9.00 *Film: Aliens* (1986) starring Sigourney Weaver. An exciting sequel to the sci-fi success *Alien* with Weaver, the sole human survivor from the original film, pluckily returning to the planet that spawned the unspeakable creatures. A plot of a man's man goes with her. The special effects won an Oscar. Directed by James Cameron. (Continues after the news) (Oracle) (s) (4995)
10.00 *News at Ten*. (Oracle) Weather (941334) **10.20** *Thames News* (108792)
10.30 *Film: Aliens* continued (37247)
12.00 *Film: Robbery* (1937) starring Stanley Baker and Frank Finlay. A tough thriller about a gang planning to hold up a mail train travelling from Glasgow to London. It was inspired by the Great Train Robbery of 1963 and directed by Peter Yates of *Bullitt* (3156220)
2.10 *Film: American Harvest* (1987) starring Wayne Rogers. Drama about family values among itinerant wheat harvesters. Directed by Dick Lowry (204453)
3.50 *The Twilight Zone*. Two tales of the supernatural - *Profile in Silver* and *Red Snow* (r) (7830700)
4.55 *Film: Les Misérables* (1988). Animated version of Victor Hugo's classic set in 19th-century France (4938754)
5.55 *ITN Morning News* (5620445). Ends at 6.00*



Survival tactics: Sigourney Weaver, second left (9.00pm)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00** *Cartoons* (15179)
7.00 *The Big Breakfast* presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (42421)
9.00 *You Bet Your Life*. Game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (6578857)
9.25 *Laurel and Hardy*. Animated adventures of the comic duo (5141889)
9.30 *Sesame Street*. Early learning series (81911)
10.30 *Film: Charlie Chaplin Festival* (1938, b/w). A compilation of four of his best shorts - *The Immigrant*, *The Adventurer*, *The Cure* and *Easy Street* (38131)
12.00 *The Cat in the Hat*. Animated tale of two bored children (40402)
12.30 *Famous People, Famous Places*. The first of a new quiz series presented by Ffion Williams G. Stewart (s) (92363)
1.00 *Ann of Green Gables*. The first of a two-part adaptation of L.M. Montgomery's classic story of an orphan girl (Megan Follows) who arrives unexpectedly on a Canadian farm (r) (Teletext) (32184841)
2.55 *The Flying Phantoms*. A Survival documentary about threatened British barn owls (580882) **3.25** *Transformations*. Alchemy examined from its scientific and historical past (349179)
4.25 *Rhino Christmas*. Off-beat comedy fantasy set in suburban Australia (s) (3123088)
5.00 *Teletext*. Children's animated magazine (2088)
6.00 *The Word* - Access All Areas. A behind-the-scenes look at last Friday's youth magazine (s) (334)
6.30 *The Wonder Years*. Kevin is with his parents when they visit his sister at her college and notes their reaction when they discover she is living with a man (r) (686)
7.00 *Channel 4 News*. (Teletext) Weather (265570)
7.50 *Comment* (478860)
8.00 *Brookside*. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (s) (7155)
8.30 *Desmond's*. Comedy set in and around a south London barber's (Teletext) (s) (912)



Birds of a feather: flamingos in Ngorongoro crater (9.00pm)

- 9.00** *Crater of the Rain God*
 CHOICE: Briefly visited by Michael Palin during his television journey between the Poles, the Ngorongoro crater in Tanzania now gets a deserved programme to itself. This extinct volcano forms a huge natural amphitheatre, some 12 miles wide and enclosed by 2,000 foot high walls. Most of African wildlife is here and director Richard Mathews, who spent two years making the film, has captured it impressively. The mood is set by a bag pipe-up of a local folk song in contemplation of a zebra dinner before hunting off after its prey. When it comes to naked savagery the hyenas are not far behind. Not for nothing does the commentary observe that few animals die of natural causes. There is more sedate footage of hippos and elephants and a delectable postscript about the threat posed to Ngorongoro by the growth of tourism. (Teletext) (2537)
10.00 *Film: October* (1928, b/w).
 CHOICE: When the tenth anniversary of the Russian Revolution loomed in 1927 Sergei Eisenstein was given official backing to celebrate the event on celluloid. The result was not quite what the authorities wanted. For one thing Trotsky had fallen out of favour and references to him had to be edited out. For another, instead of treating his masters to a stately piece of socialist realism, Eisenstein let his imagination take off. The 'Babe' statue is deconstructed and magically comes together again. The deposed Kerensky is mercilessly parodied as a strutting peacock. More to official taste was the climactic scene of the storming of the Winter Palace, although the actual episode was much tamer. This rare television showing of a silent classic comes with a new recording of Edmond Meisel's original orchestral score (s) (3597059)
12.15am *Film: The Devil's Brother* (1933, b/w). A Laurel and Hardy opera spoof set in 18th century Italy. Directed by Hal Roach and Charles Rogers (221826). Ends at 1.50

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 6.05-11.40 *Film: Escape of the Amazon* (1937) **1.30-2.10** *Film: An Allegor Named Daisy* (2533308)

BORDER

As London except: 6.00 *Lookaround* (702) **6.30-7.00** *Home and Away* (604) **12.00-1.30** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **1.30-2.10** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **2.10-3.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **3.00-4.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **4.00-5.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **5.00-6.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **6.00-7.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **7.00-8.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **8.00-9.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **9.00-10.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **10.00-11.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **11.00-12.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **12.00-1.30** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **1.30-2.10** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **2.10-3.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **3.00-4.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **4.00-5.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **5.00-6.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **6.00-7.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **7.00-8.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **8.00-9.00** *Film: The Burglars* (1964) **9.00-10.00** *Film: The 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Keeping inflation
at bay
outside the ERM

BUSINESS

MONDAY DECEMBER 21 1992

Water watchdog
makes attack
on Severn Trent

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

Ford suppliers told 'cut prices or lose orders'

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

FORD Motor Company is stepping up pressure on its suppliers in an effort to restore profitability savaged by recession and declining market share in Britain.

In a letter to suppliers, the company has called for price cuts on components and materials, adding that those who fail to help may no longer be asked to bid as the company cuts the number of suppliers it deals with.

Ford's warning has won little sympathy from some smaller suppliers, who complain that the company is trying to use its market muscle at a time when they, too, are struggling to make ends meet in the recession.

They are particularly irked that the letter, from Mike Crighton, director of facilities

Ford has sent a letter warning that it expects to cut back on suppliers and urging them to help the car company by reducing component and material prices

and general supplies, arrives at a time when Ford is raising its own prices in an effort to rebuild its profit margins.

The managing director of one supplier said: "We are already looking at a break-even situation this year, and like everyone else we are looking to reduce costs and labour. Are they going to reduce the price of their Sierras to help our business?"

He said over-powerful buyers posed just as much of a problem for many smaller companies as unhelpful bank managers.

Ford said it was seeking to cut costs wherever possible, although not at the expense of

quality. A spokeswoman said: "If a particular supplier has a problem, he should come and talk to us. That is what the letter invites them to do."

In his letter, Mr Crighton warned suppliers that Ford was ill placed to cope with additional cost at a time of unprecedented investment. "In 1993, we will not be able to accept price increases from you and rather there will be need for price reductions," he said.

"In the coming years we plan to make a significant reduction in our supplier base so that better performers who support us the most will benefit from additional volume. I am sure you will recognise the economic realities now facing our business and will work with us to address them."

Last week, Ford announced it was cutting a further 10,000 jobs in Europe by the end of 1993. A one-off charge of £266 million to cover the cuts will contribute to a net loss for Ford operations worldwide during 1992, Harold Poling, Ford's chairman, has predicted.

Larger Ford suppliers are also expected to play their part in the cost-saving process. However, they tend to work closely with the vehicle assembler in the development of models and feel themselves to be in a more even relationship.

A spokesman for GKN, which supplies Ford and many other manufacturers with constant velocity joints for transmissions, said: "Our relationship with Ford is much more one of partnership. The pressures on price are always there. For the last year or more, the pressures have been very considerable, but we are all in the same cycle. Everyone is looking for the best deal they can get."

"We are working with them a long time before a car is produced on the development programme. But once the product goes into production they look to us to cut the price as we get better at making it."



Waiting for Santa: if Lord King's USAir bids fails, there is always next Christmas

USAir failure will not deter King from American quest

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND MARTIN FLETCHER

LORD King, the British Airways chairman, may be disappointed over the prime minister's apparent failure to reach agreement during their Camp David summit.

A senior British official said the BA bid was discussed, but admitted: "I still think one has to be downbeat." The issue "certainly has not been resolved". Andrew Card, the US transport secretary, must decide on the BA offer by December 24 when USAir shareholders plan an extraordinary meeting to consider his ruling.

Sir Colin Marshall, the BA chief executive, who last persuaded Canberra to allow BA to take a 25 per cent stake in Qantas, the Australian national carrier, has said if the bid for USAir were refused, BA

would have to know the precise grounds before it could formulate a response.

Under pressure from the powerful American airline lobby, Washington has insisted that Britain must open up Heathrow to American carriers before BA can gain access to the American market. Even Bill Clinton, the President-elect, said last week that he would like "some corresponding access" for American airlines in Britain if BA was to have significant influence on USAir policy.

The crucial attraction of USAir for BA is that, while the fourth-largest US carrier, it is primarily a domestic airline, making it an ideal fit for BA's international network.

but certain yesterday after John Major and President Bush had apparently failed to reach agreement during their Camp David summit.

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Hopes grow for compromise to secure future of Rosyth dockyard

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

MANAGERS at the Rosyth Naval Dockyard, in Fife, are now cautiously optimistic about the chances of a compromise deal to secure the survival of the yard and most of its 4,000 jobs.

A compromise solution, which the Ministry of Defence appears to favour at this stage, would allow both Rosyth and the Devonport yard at Plymouth, Devon, its competitor, to continue operating maintenance contracts for the navy, with Rosyth gaining the contract for the refitting of the Trident nuclear submarine system, and Devonport concentrating on surface repair work. It had been originally proposed to concentrate all work, including that on Trident, at Plymouth, and to close down the Scottish yard, situated on the north shore of the Firth of Forth, the biggest deep-water estuary on the east coast.

Closure of the yard would have been a serious blow to the Scottish economy, and there had been estimates that as many as 14,000 jobs in the region would have to go, including suppliers.

Malcolm Rifkind, defence secretary and a former Secretary of State for Scotland, will not announce an official decision until January, but according to reports in Scottish newspapers, "senior officials" at the Ministry of Defence have indicated that a compromise deal is now the most likely outcome. A spokesman

for Rosyth said yesterday that "we are not expecting to get confirmation until the second week in January, but we are confident that the yard will not have to close".

A spokeswoman for the MoD refused to comment yesterday, other than repeating that a decision was due in January.

The closure was originally proposed by the Navy Board on cost grounds and has provoked an outcry in Scotland. A decision to keep the yard open would be further evidence of the government's U-turn on industrial and regional policy, after the coal mine fiasco earlier this year.

The two naval shipyards have been locked in fierce competition over the maintenance contracts. The scaling down of Britain's nuclear submarine fleet has meant potential maintenance cost savings, most notably through the concentration of maintenance at a single dockyard.

Rosyth has been the last two decades the sole yard for refitting Polaris nuclear submarines, which are based at Faslane, Strathclyde.

Trident, which replaces Polaris, requires new facilities. The government has already invested heavily on a couple of unfinished dry docks at Rosyth.

The compromise plan would still entail job losses at both yards, though significantly fewer than had Rosyth been closed down.

Inflation forecast to climb in 1993

By OUR ECONOMICS STAFF

UNEMPLOYMENT and inflation will climb throughout next year, while the economy will only revert to sluggish growth, according to a leading economic forecasting group.

Ernst & Young Independent Treasury Economic Modelling Club (Item) forecast a rise in unemployment to 3.4 million by 1994, as another 500,000 people join the dole queues. The government's determination to keep underlying inflation below 4 per cent will also be sorely tested as the devaluation of the pound will force up import prices. This will translate into a higher overall rate of inflation. According to Item, inflation will rise to more than 4 per cent by the end of next year and then to 5 per cent in 1994.

Economic growth will be sluggish at 0.8 per cent in 1993, and will rise to 2.2 per cent in 1995. The positive effects of lower interest rates and sterling devaluation are being cancelled out by the weakness of Britain's largest

continental European export markets.

The forecast assumes a cut in interest rates to 6 per cent next year, but companies and households would continue to cut debts, rather than raise spending. Falls in house prices have also made it more difficult for people to take on more debt.

Interest rates may even go up in 1994 because of increased inflation, which Item expects to remain at around 4 per cent until 1996-7.

The public sector borrowing requirement would climb to £50 billion, 8 per cent of gross domestic product, by 1993-4. The weakness of economic recovery will make it hard for the government to cut the PSBR towards the 3 per cent of GDP outlined in the Maastricht treaty guidelines for economic and monetary union.

Item predicts that the government will have to raise taxes to cut the PSBR sufficiently to meet the Maastricht target.

Factory pay deals fall to 3.1% average

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE manufacturer in three has imposed a pay freeze on employees, contributing to a sharp fall in the level of pay settlements, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

Manufacturing pay settlements fell to an average of 3.1 per cent for the three months to end-November, according to provisional figures from the CBI's pay databank. The rise is within a whisker of the 3 per cent increase in inflation, measured by the retail prices index, in the year to November, and 1.1 points lower than the 4.2 per cent provisionally

calculated by the CBI for the quarter to end-September.

Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI, said the figures "demonstrate a further marked change for the better in pay and performance behaviour in the summer. Settlements are falling sharply now in manufacturing and services, and productivity momentum is being maintained".

The rate of pay growth in manufacturing, however, continues to be markedly lower than in service companies. According to the pay databank, awards in service

firms averaged 3.7 per cent during the three months to end-September, compared with 4.5 per cent in the three months ending August and 5.6 per cent during the period to end-November last year.

So far this year, the CBI says, manufacturing awards have averaged only 3.4 per cent, with one in six companies imposing a pay freeze of six months to a year.

Manufacturing productivity gains have improved. During the third quarter, productivity improved on average at an annualised rate of 2.7 per cent, compared with 2.1 per

cent during the second quarter.

The CBI believes it essential to ensure that pay rises are financed through productivity gains, and that employers do not surrender the improvement in their competitive advantage obtained through the devaluation of sterling by conceding higher settlements than they can afford.

Mr Davies said: "If these positive trends can be consolidated across the economy, we will be well positioned to compete effectively in world markets when recovery comes."

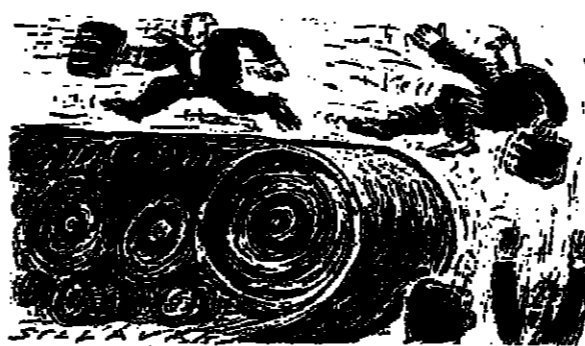
Survey shows death of a sales force

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

IT WILL come as no surprise to Willy Loman, but salesmen — and women — have been hardest hit by recession. According to government figures that break down the jobless statistics into sectors, beauticians, police officers, and managers have increased, while sales people have been worst affected. Not so much death of a salesman as death of a sales force.

Sales, clerical and machine-operating staff all fared badly. The number employed in selling fell 35,000 over the quarter, or 1.8 per cent, while clerical staff and machine operators fell 6,000 and 24,000 respectively.

The figures support the idea that this downturn is more of a white-collar recession, but suggest that how the recession has hit white-collar workers has differed



between sectors. The government's Labour Force Survey, which breaks down unemployment statistics into occupational and industrial groups, is published every three months. The survey used to be issued annually, but its second quarterly publication last week allows, for the first time, an examination of who is faring best.

Best placed are those working in what the department of employment cate-

gorises as "personal and protective services", which includes occupations such as the police and fire services, as well as beauticians and hairdressers. Employment in this group rose 65,000, or 2.7 per cent, between spring and summer this year.

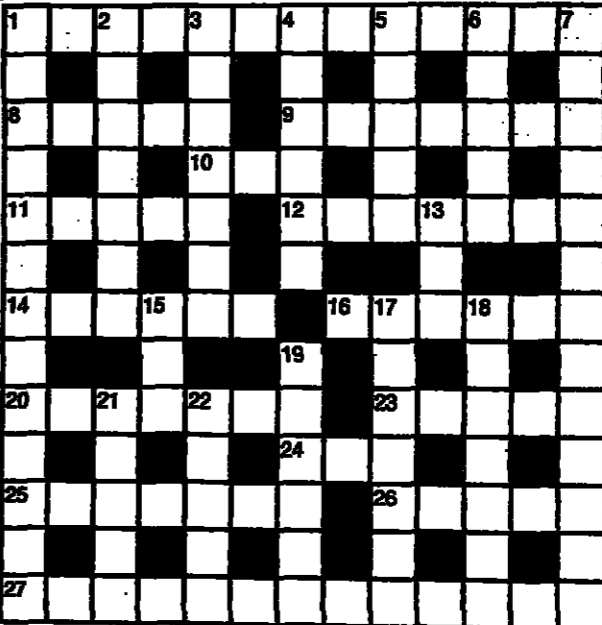
Managers were not far behind. The number of managers and administrators increased by 42,000 (1.1 per cent), while associate professional and technical staff —

technicians, nurses, computer programmers — went up by 34,000, or 1.6 per cent. Over the previous year, the number of managers rose 75,000, or 2 per cent, while those in personal and other services rose the same amount, 3.3 per cent.

By broad industrial group, farming is, by far, the safest area for employment. While employment in agriculture and energy over the 12 months to April fell about 10 per cent, over the period measured by the two LFS reports, the number employed in farming rose 19,000, or 3.8 per cent.

Second to agriculture was banking, finance and insurance, with a 1.1 per cent increase, or an extra 66,000 people. The LFS figures include second jobs. While the number of people with second jobs is, at 900,000, marginally down, the level is higher than the 700,000 recorded in the mid-1980s.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2976



ACROSS

- 1 From UK to US (13)
- 8 Trance county (5)
- 9 Plane wing flap (7)
- 10 Louse egg (3)
- 11 Fine net fabric (5)
- 12 Brassica (7)
- 14 Surplus (6)
- 16 Beverage vessel (3,3)
- 20 Inactivity (7)
- 23 Marijuana (5)
- 24 Contend (3)
- 25 Indecent (7)
- 26 Raw fish dish (5)
- 27 Take position (4,4,5)

DOWN

- 1 Uncover (4,3,3,3)
- 2 Blanket fibre (7)
- 3 Stealth (7)
- 4 Roof straw (6)
- 5 Improvisation (2,3)
- 6 Land (5)
- 7 Thoughtful (1,3)
- 13 Sheep noise (3)
- 15 Wheat tip (3)
- 17 Creeps close (5,2)
- 18 Two pack card game (7)
- 19 Caution (6)
- 21 Artist's stand (5)
- 22 Rome coins fountain (5)

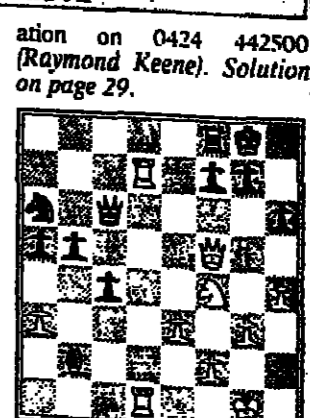
SOLUTIONS TO NO 2975

- ACROSS: 1 Quisling 5 Plus 9 Analyst 10 Spoor
11 Eyot 12 Version 14 Patten 16 Spigot 19 Non stop
21 Clan 24 Rigid 25 Rainbow 26 Late 27 Slag heap
DOWN: 1 Quad 2 Italy 3 Layette 4 Native 6 Looting
7 Strength 8 Tsar 13 Spandrel 15 Tonight 17 Pickling
18 Spiral 20 Tide 22 Ambie 23 Swap

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software (24 hrs) or CPs on 0202 890000 - STOP PRESS! just released - the First Book of The Times Jumbo Concise Crosswords - ring Akom. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

WINNING MOVE

This position is taken from the game Larsen - Large, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1986/87. Grandmaster Bent Larsen made a successful appearance in this tournament, finishing equal first. How did he break through black's defences here and made a vital capture? British grandmasters Nunn and Speelman will be among the eight players in the top section at this year's Hastings tournament. Further details from the British Chess Federation on 0424 442500 (Raymond Keene). Solution on page 29.



WORD WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

BLANQUETTE
a. White poster paint
b. A French army cape
c. Veal in sauce

FILARIA
a. Ribbons round the forehead
b. A worm
c. A Spartan mess or club

DOOMIE

- a. A Cassandra
 - b. A breed of African dog
 - c. A housemaid
- CLAYTONIA**
a. A small herb
b. A type of jazz
c. An earthenware glaze

Answers on page 29

XERYUS
DE GIVENCHY

Fascinating
and Original

XERYUS

GIVENCHY